

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1912

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished native son
2 on April 19, 2013, with the passing of John F. Sutton, Jr., former
3 dean of The University of Texas School of Law; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Alpine on January 26, 1918, John Sutton was
5 the son of John and Pauline Sutton; he grew up in San Angelo and
6 worked on his father's ranch in Tom Green County before graduating
7 from San Angelo High School; while attending the UT School of Law,
8 he met a classmate, Nancy Ewing, whom he married on June 1, 1940;
9 the couple would go on to become the parents of two treasured
10 children, Nancy and John, and to share 72 years together; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Sutton graduated from law school with honors in
12 1941 and briefly practiced in San Antonio; at the start of World War
13 II, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special
14 agent, and later, during the Korean War, he served as a first
15 lieutenant, Judge Advocate General's Corps, in the United States
16 Army Reserves; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1950, Mr. Sutton returned to San Angelo to
18 practice law with his wife and his father, a retired district court
19 judge; his sterling qualifications led the UT School of Law to
20 appoint him as a tenured full professor in 1957 although he had
21 never taught law before, and he won a teaching excellence award very
22 early in his career; bringing real-world experience to the
23 classroom, he helped his students gain a greater understanding of
24 legal principles, and his sense of humor, as well as his intellect

1 and insight, made lessons especially memorable; he also taught at a
2 number of other institutions over the years, among them Texas Tech
3 University, the University of California, Los Angeles, and South
4 Texas School of Law; and

5 WHEREAS, This brilliant scholar gained national recognition
6 for his particular expertise in legal ethics, evidence, and torts;
7 he was one of the original drafters of the American Bar
8 Association's Model Rules of Professional Responsibility, and he
9 served two terms on its Standing Committee on Ethics and
10 Professional Responsibility; moreover, he served as chair of the
11 Professional Ethics Committee of the State Bar of Texas, and in
12 1977, he was the evidence advisor for the joint committee of the
13 Texas Senate and House of Representatives during its hearing
14 regarding Texas Supreme Court justice Don Yarbrough; Mr. Sutton was
15 the coauthor of two editions of *Cases and Materials on Professional*
16 *Responsibility* and of several editions of McCormick, Elliott, and
17 Sutton, *Cases and Materials on Evidence*; and

18 WHEREAS, Appointed head of the law school in 1979, Dean
19 Sutton promoted a collegial, productive environment, setting a
20 standard of excellence while retaining his easygoing, unassuming
21 ways; he dedicated himself to advancing the school's reputation
22 through the recruitment and retention of top-notch faculty, and he
23 was an inspiring mentor and role model; after concluding his tenure
24 as dean in 1984, he continued to teach until his retirement in 2003
25 at the age of 85, and at 90, he was appointed to the state bar's
26 Standing Committee on Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct;
27 and

1 WHEREAS, The law school presented Dean Sutton with its
2 Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1990, and it later named one of its
3 eight societies in his honor and established the Dean John
4 F. Sutton, Jr. Chair in Lawyering and the Legal Process through an
5 endowment by a former student; in addition, the Texas Law Review
6 Association created the John F. Sutton, Jr. Endowed Presidential
7 Scholarship in Law, and the Texas Bar Foundation presented him with
8 an Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award; Dean Sutton was a fellow of the
9 American Bar Foundation and a life member of the Texas Bar
10 Foundation; and

11 WHEREAS, In his leisure time, he loved to travel with his
12 wife, and they visited every state in the country as well as many
13 countries in Europe, Africa, and South America; he also raised
14 Black Angus cattle and maintained horses at a small farm south of
15 Austin; and

16 WHEREAS, John Sutton left a lasting imprint on the legal
17 profession and made a positive difference in innumerable lives;
18 although he will be deeply missed, his contributions will continue
19 to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dean John
22 F. Sutton, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of
23 his family: to his wife of 72 years, Nancy Ewing Sutton; to his
24 daughter, Nancy Joan Sutton Parr, and her husband, Dr. Tom Parr; to
25 his son, Judge John Ewing Sutton, and his wife, Judy Harris Sutton;
26 to his grandchildren, Robert Parr and his wife, Michelle, Stephen
27 Parr and his wife, Wendy, Brandon Ducote and his wife, Kathy, and

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1 Joshua Ewing Sutton and his wife, Eduarda; to his
2 great-grandchildren, Bailey Parr, Julia Parr, Alma Marie Sutton,
3 John Michael Sutton, Louis Gabriel Sutton, Alan Justin Ducote, and
4 Savannah Nicole Ducote; to his sister, Dorothy Galgowski, and her
5 husband, Vic; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
9 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dean
10 John F. Sutton, Jr.