

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 131

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a renowned Texas athlete drew to a close
2 with the passing of former Dallas Cowboy Jethro Pugh on January 7,
3 2015, at the age of 70; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on July 3, 1944, in Windsor, North Carolina,
5 Jethro Pugh attended Bertie High School and subsequently enrolled
6 at Elizabeth City State University at the age of 16; he
7 distinguished himself as a talented player on both offense and
8 defense for ECSU, earning all-conference honors in 1963 and 1964
9 for his play as a defensive end; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Pugh was selected by Dallas in the 11th round of
11 the 1965 National Football League Draft; one of the original
12 members of the team's vaunted "Doomsday Defense," he anchored the
13 line from his spot at tackle and played a central role in the
14 Cowboys' rise to prominence in the late 1960s and early 1970s;
15 during his third season, he took part in the legendary 1967 "Ice
16 Bowl" game, when Dallas was narrowly defeated by the Green Bay
17 Packers for the NFL Championship; the determined efforts of
18 Mr. Pugh and his teammates would not be denied, however, and the
19 club would go on to collect five NFC Championships and two Super
20 Bowl titles in the course of his 14-year career; he led Dallas in
21 sacks for five consecutive seasons from 1968 to 1972, and his 95.5
22 career sacks rank sixth all-time in team history; he retired
23 following the 1978-1979 NFL season, having played in a then-record
24 23 playoff games; and

1 WHEREAS, After his playing days ended, Mr. Pugh found success
2 as an entrepreneur by opening a gift shop in the Dallas-Fort Worth
3 International Airport, an enterprise that later grew into a chain
4 of stores; he also found time to give back to others as the founder
5 and namesake of the Jethro Pugh Celebrity Golf Tournament, an
6 annual event in the Dallas area that raises funds for the United
7 Negro College Fund; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Pugh's accomplishments were recognized with a
9 number of significant accolades, including selection as an NFL
10 All-Pro player and induction into the CIAA Hall of Fame, the North
11 Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the ECSU Sports Hall of Fame, and the
12 National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame; and

13 WHEREAS, A superb athlete, a fierce competitor, and a
14 respected businessman, Jethro Pugh excelled on and off the
15 gridiron, and he will be fondly remembered by his family and friends
16 as well as by countless football fans in the Lone Star State and
17 beyond; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jethro Pugh and extend
20 sincere sympathy to the members of his family; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jethro
24 Pugh.