

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, pastor of First
2 Presbyterian Church of Mesquite, retired on March 1, 2015,
3 concluding nearly a half-century of dedicated service to that
4 congregation; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Texarkana, Thomas Wilbanks earned his
6 bachelor's degree from Trinity University in 1957; he went on to
7 complete his master of divinity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
8 in 1960, and he later received a doctor of divinity from McCormick
9 Theological Seminary; and

10 WHEREAS, This esteemed clergyman joined First Presbyterian
11 in 1968, and under his skillful leadership, the church saw a growth
12 in membership and an expansion of church facilities and programs;
13 throughout his tenure, he helped parishioners navigate times of
14 sorrow and uncertainty, rejoiced with them in times of gladness,
15 and led them in carrying out the work of the church; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilbanks has further contributed to the
17 community through his involvement in civic organizations in the
18 Mesquite area; he served as president of the Mesquite Ministers'
19 Association and as a member of the board of Mesquite Social Services
20 and the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Association; moreover, he
21 currently serves as chair of the Mesquite Police Training Advisory
22 Board and as a member of the advisory council for the Eastfield
23 College Criminal Justice Training Center; and

24 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Dr. Wilbanks enjoys the love

1 and support of a fine family that includes his wife, Carolyn, and
2 his two daughters, Marilyn and Marjorie; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the course of almost five decades in the
4 ministry, Dr. Wilbanks has provided inspiration and spiritual
5 guidance to countless individuals, and he has earned the lasting
6 respect and admiration of worshippers at First Presbyterian Church
7 as well as residents of the greater community; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor Thomas G. Wilbanks for 47 years of
10 outstanding service to First Presbyterian Church of Mesquite and
11 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Dr. Wilbanks as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.

Burkett

H.R. No. 874

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 874 was adopted by the House on March 12, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House