

By: Burkett

H.R. No. 874

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's of divinity at Pittsburgh Theological  
8 Seminary in 1960, and he later received a doctorate of divinity from  
9 McCormick 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.