

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 1408

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Wilford F. Pickard Jr. of College  
2 Station on March 9, 2015, at the age of 81, has brought a great loss  
3 to the Texas A&M University community; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio on October 31, 1933, to Wilford  
5 Pickard and Katherine Bossy, "Billy" Pickard graduated from Central  
6 Catholic High School and subsequently enrolled at A&M; he joined  
7 the Aggie football program as a student trainer, and he worked in  
8 that capacity under legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant until he  
9 completed his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1956; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Pickard began his professional career as the  
11 head athletic trainer at Port Arthur and Brazosport High Schools  
12 before returning to College Station in 1965 to take over as head  
13 athletic trainer for the football team; over the ensuing five  
14 decades, he took on an ever-increasing number of responsibilities  
15 within the A&M athletic department, serving as the school's  
16 equipment manager, assistant athletic director for training,  
17 equipment, and facilities, and associate athletic director for  
18 facilities; he was named senior associate athletic director for  
19 facilities in 1994, and in this role he helped coordinate the  
20 construction of the Bright Football Complex, Nye Academic Center,  
21 and the Bernard C. Richardson Zone at Kyle Field; and

22           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan officially retired in 2009, but  
23 he continued to be a familiar and welcome presence on the A&M  
24 campus; affectionately known as the "Keeper of Kyle Field," he

1 would often arrive at 6 a.m. to check on the stadium, and he was a  
2 fixture and frequent speaker at Aggie football practices in recent  
3 seasons; Mr. Pickard also lent his support to the school's other  
4 athletic programs, attending myriad baseball and basketball games;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Highly respected by players and peers alike,  
7 Mr. Pickard held a number of important leadership positions within  
8 the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association, and the organization  
9 honored him for his many contributions with the prestigious Frank  
10 Medina Award in 1984; he was inducted into the National Athletic  
11 Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 1985, and he was a member of  
12 the Texas A&M Lettermen's Association Hall of Honor; moreover, he  
13 received well-deserved recognition for his dedicated efforts in  
14 behalf of the university when the school declared October 10, 2009,  
15 as Billy Pickard Day at Kyle Field; and

16 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Pickard enjoyed the  
17 love and support of his wife, Linda, and their six children, Kevin,  
18 Joe, Janet, John, Jean, and Joy, and he later knew the joy of  
19 welcoming two additional generations into his cherished family; and

20 WHEREAS, Billy Pickard made a positive difference in  
21 countless lives during his exemplary service to Texas A&M  
22 University, and he will forever hold a special place in the hearts  
23 of his loved ones and Aggies everywhere; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Billy Pickard and  
26 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife  
27 of 43 years, Linda Pickard; to his children, Kevin Pickard and his

1 wife, Amy, Joe Pickard and his wife, Jan, Janet Bausch, John Pickard  
2 and his wife, Diane, Jean Carter and her husband, Jeff, and Joy  
3 Crowl and her husband, Mark; to his grandchildren and his  
4 great-granddaughter; to his brother, Robert Pickard, and his wife,  
5 Mary; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
6 further

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