

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2813

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Justice Sam Griffith is retiring from the 12th Court  
2 of Appeals in 2015, drawing to a close a notable tenure on the court  
3 that has spanned 14 years; and

4           WHEREAS, Justice Griffith earned his bachelor's and master's  
5 degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University, and he received  
6 his law degree from St. Mary's School of Law; he began his legal  
7 career as a briefing attorney for Justice Paul S. Colley of the 12th  
8 Court of Appeals before entering private practice in Tyler; from  
9 1997 to 1998, he was a juvenile court judge for County Court at Law  
10 No. 3 of Smith County, and from 1999 through 2000, he returned to  
11 private practice; he was elected to the 12th Court of Appeals in  
12 2000 and began his first term on January 1, 2001, and he was  
13 reelected unopposed in 2006 and 2012; and

14           WHEREAS, Board certified in criminal law and criminal  
15 appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Justice  
16 Griffith is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Smith County  
17 Bar Association; he is a member of the Texas Bar Association  
18 Judicial and Appellate Sections, and he has served on the Texas Bar  
19 Association Committee on Law Focused Education; he has been  
20 admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Fifth  
21 Circuit, and the U.S. Eastern and Northern Districts of Texas; and

22           WHEREAS, Justice Griffith has taught U.S. constitutional law  
23 at Yunnan University School of Law in China and at Koya University  
24 in Iraq; he has published and delivered articles on a variety of

1 topics, from law to social psychology, and he is a regular speaker  
2 at legal seminars on criminal appeals and evidentiary issues; and

3       WHEREAS, Despite his busy professional life, Justice  
4 Griffith has also found time to dedicate himself to community  
5 service; he has been chair of the board of directors of the local  
6 YMCA, secretary of the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Smith  
7 County, and a member of the board of the East Texas Farm and Ranch  
8 Club; he is active with the East Texas Food Bank food garden, and he  
9 has won more than 50 ribbons at the East Texas State Fair for the  
10 vegetables he has grown; and

11       WHEREAS, A man of profound religious faith, Justice Griffith  
12 is also active in Christian missionary work, leading or  
13 participating in mission trips to Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, El  
14 Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala; his mission work in Iraq  
15 earned him the Global Encourager Award from the Global Evangelistic  
16 Relations Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and in  
17 2013, he received the Servant Leadership Award from the Texas  
18 TeenPact Leadership Schools; and

19       WHEREAS, Justice Griffith's professionalism, integrity, and  
20 dedication to the law have greatly benefited his fellow Texans and  
21 earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, and he may  
22 indeed reflect with pride on his service to the 12th Court of  
23 Appeals as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Justice Sam Griffith on his  
27 retirement from the 12th Court of Appeals and extend to him sincere

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1 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further  
2       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for Justice Griffith as an expression of high regard by the  
4 Texas House of Representatives.