

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 914

In Memory
of
William B. Wilkerson

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Austin in mourning the loss of William B. Wilkerson, who died April 30, 2015, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Bill Wilkerson was born April 12, 1929, to James and Alma Wilkerson; he became a second-generation newspaperman at the young age of eight by serving as a printer's devil at the *Comanche Chief*, where his father was publisher and owner; and

WHEREAS, He met Judith Blanton while a student at The University of Texas at Austin, and they married in 1950; he graduated the following year and joined the United States Air Force, and he served with distinction at Floyd Bennett Field in New York during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkerson returned to Texas and served as editor of the *Comanche Chief* for 18 years; in 1974, he and his wife bought the *Pleasanton Express*, and under his watchful eye, the paper became an award-winning publication; the couple remained on as owners and publishers of the paper when they moved to Austin in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Distinguished leaders in the newspaper business, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkerson were the youngest members to join the South Texas Press Association and over time, they became the oldest couple to attend its conventions; Mr. Wilkerson also served as a board member of the Texas Press Association for many years; in Austin, he immersed himself in the local culture and was an avid Longhorn fan; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Wilkerson had a larger-than-life personality and was a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; he was devoted to his wife and was known for his boundless generosity and he will long be remembered with affection and admiration by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of William B. Wilkerson; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill Wilkerson.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 20, 2015, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate