

By: Leach

H.R. No. 298

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Richardson were deeply saddened by the  
2 death of former mayor Bobby Lee Townsend on June 2, 2017, at the age  
3 of 84; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Vernon and Lillian Townsend, Bob Townsend  
5 was born in Durant, Oklahoma, on January 6, 1933; he studied at the  
6 University of Oklahoma and Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
7 before going on to complete his master's degree at Southern  
8 Methodist University; on July 27, 1952, he married the former  
9 Madeline "Lynn" Stevens, and they became the parents of four  
10 children, Kurt, Valerie, Kret, and Kevin; he eventually knew the  
11 joy of welcoming into his family seven grandchildren, Michael,  
12 David, Barrett, Jackson, Kyle, Adrian, and Julie, and six  
13 great-grandchildren, Parker, Maddie, Lewis, Melanie, Caroline, and  
14 Kennedy; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Townsend began his career as an accountant and  
16 data processing developer for Swift and Company in Memphis,  
17 Tennessee, and Chicago, Illinois; eager to return to the Southwest,  
18 he joined Texas Instruments in 1958, and his responsibilities in  
19 the Information Systems and Services Division included management  
20 of the company's internal communications system; following his  
21 retirement in 1996, he dedicated himself to his beloved community;  
22 he was president of the Southwest Richardson Homeowners Association  
23 and the Richland Meadows Neighborhood Association, and he served on  
24 a number of city boards and commissions; in 2001, he was elected to

1 the city council, and during a tenure that spanned 16 years, he was  
2 mayor from 2011 to 2013 and served three terms as mayor pro tem; and

3 WHEREAS, A tireless public servant, Mr. Townsend furthered  
4 economic development, launching the Mayor's Office of  
5 International Business and building fruitful relationships with  
6 business representatives from abroad; he played a key role in a host  
7 of projects, among them the Eisemann Center, five DART rail  
8 stations, three fire stations, a fire training center, and multiple  
9 recreation and sports facilities; moreover, he promoted greater  
10 unity and understanding among citizens through his involvement in  
11 the reactivation of the Richardson Interfaith Alliance and the  
12 adoption of its Charter for Compassion; his profound commitment to  
13 the city led him to continue his work until the end of his term on  
14 the council despite his battle with lung cancer; named Citizen of  
15 the Year for 2016 by the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, he received  
16 the city's Distinguished Service Award on the occasion of his  
17 retirement in May 2017; and

18 WHEREAS, Bob Townsend made a lasting, positive difference in  
19 Richardson, and although he is deeply missed, his devotion to his  
20 family and his community will remain a source of inspiration to all  
21 who had the good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
24 Bobby Lee Townsend and extend sincere condolences to his loved  
25 ones; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bob  
2 Townsend.