

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 854

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Laymond Wilburn has won great distinction for
2 himself and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern
3 University with his selection as one of the 2017 Law Students of the
4 Year by the *National Jurist* magazine; and

5 WHEREAS, This significant honor is being presented to only 25
6 students from across the nation in 2017, all of them nominated by
7 their law schools for their academic achievement, community
8 service, and commitment to justice; and

9 WHEREAS, The son of Ray and Kathy Wilburn, Laymond Wilburn is
10 a proud Houstonian who attended Strake Jesuit College Preparatory
11 before graduating with a bachelor's degree from Xavier University
12 of Louisiana; after earning his master's degree, he served as
13 deputy sheriff in Jackson County, Mississippi, in the aftermath of
14 Hurricane Katrina; and

15 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Wilburn
16 enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he demonstrated remarkable
17 drive and ability as an active duty cyberwarfare officer; over the
18 course of five years, he served in South Korea, Bosnia and
19 Herzegovina, and the Middle East; in Germany, he commanded the
20 largest communications flight in the air force, supervising 300
21 airmen in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; he also
22 volunteered to preside as officer in charge for more than 75
23 funerals in the Gulf Coast region; and

24 WHEREAS, Throughout his military career, Mr. Wilburn applied

1 to law school, only to be waitlisted each time; when he was at last
2 accepted, he deferred his enrollment to serve with the Green Berets
3 and the Navy SEALs in Afghanistan; he then left the air force to
4 pursue his dream of becoming an attorney; and

5 WHEREAS, Now a third-year student at Thurgood Marshall School
6 of Law, Mr. Wilburn was elected "Mr. TMSL" for the 2016-2017
7 academic year; his extensive volunteer work includes leading many
8 community service projects as well as performing more than 300
9 hours of pro bono work with the Houston Young Lawyers Association in
10 behalf of area veterans; and

11 WHEREAS, Always optimistic and rarely without a smile,
12 Mr. Wilburn is currently serving his seventh internship with the
13 Texas Legislature in Austin, where he is widely regarded as one of
14 the best-dressed men in the Capitol and, indeed, in the entire State
15 of Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, Poised on the threshold of a brilliant career,
17 Laymond Wilburn has proven to be as successful a law student as he
18 has been in all his previous endeavors, and he is truly deserving of
19 national recognition for his initiative, his capability, and his
20 dedication to serving others; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate Laymond Wilburn on being named a
23 2017 Law Student of the Year by the *National Jurist* and extend to
24 him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for Mr. Wilburn as an expression of high regard by the
27 Texas House of Representatives.