

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 1228

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens from across the Lone Star State are
2 mourning the loss of former Supreme Court of Texas Chief Justice
3 Jack Pope Jr., who passed away on February 25, 2017, at the age of
4 103; and

5 WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson "Jack" Pope Jr. was born in Abilene
6 on April 18, 1913, to Dr. Andrew Jackson Pope Sr., a pioneer
7 physician, and Ruth Adelia Taylor; after graduating from Abilene
8 High School in 1930, he attended Abilene Christian University,
9 where he served as president of the student association, earned
10 letters in debate and tennis, and graduated with a bachelor of arts
11 degree in 1934; he continued his education at The University of
12 Texas at Austin, serving as student editor of the *Texas Law Review*
13 and receiving a bachelor of laws degree in 1937; and

14 WHEREAS, In June of that year, Mr. Pope was licensed to
15 practice law in Texas, and he moved to Corpus Christi to join the
16 firm of his uncle, former state representative Walter E. Pope; he
17 soon established himself as a capable attorney whose practice dealt
18 with criminal and civil matters, including creditors' rights, oil
19 and gas issues, real estate transactions, and personal injury and
20 family law; at the encouragement of his uncle, he also took
21 appellate cases, which he briefed and argued before the Court of
22 Civil Appeals in San Antonio and the Supreme Court of Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1938, Jack Pope married Allene Nichols,
24 a fellow UT graduate; in the course of a loving partnership that

1 lasted 66 years, they became the proud parents of two sons,
2 A. J. and Allen; and

3 WHEREAS, Following the outbreak of World War II, this
4 patriotic Texan enlisted in the U.S. Navy, even though as a father,
5 he was exempt from the draft; he served his country as a
6 cryptologist in Washington, D.C., and as part of the legal team at
7 the Naval Air Training Station in Corpus Christi; and

8 WHEREAS, Honorably discharged in 1946, Jack Pope established
9 a private law practice with O. E. Cannon and Sam Pittman; soon
10 after, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of 94th District
11 Court Judge Allen Wood; the youngest district judge in Texas at the
12 time, he began speaking at legal institutes and bar association
13 meetings and expressing his thoughts on the jury system, the best
14 administration of court trials, and the proper methods to present
15 and exclude evidence; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Pope went on to serve on the Fourth Court of
17 Civil Appeals in San Antonio from 1950 to 1964; while a member of
18 that bench, he helped reshape Texas water law by analyzing the
19 question of riparian rights of irrigation in Spanish and Mexican
20 land grants; his seminal opinion in the matter was subsequently
21 adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas; years later, author James A.
22 Michener sought Mr. Pope's expertise on the historical role of
23 water when researching his acclaimed 1985 novel, *Texas*; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1964, Jack Pope was elected to the Supreme Court
25 of Texas, and as an associate justice, he led efforts to enact
26 judicial and procedural reforms and helped draft significant
27 rulings on property rights; he was appointed by Governor William

1 P. Clements as the 23rd chief justice in 1982 and elected to that
2 position two years later; and

3 WHEREAS, Known for the clarity of his thought and writing,
4 Chief Justice Pope served as a Texas judge for 38 years, the longest
5 judicial tenure in the state's history; he wrote more than 1,000
6 opinions and over 70 law-related articles, a staggering amount that
7 represents the largest contribution by a single individual to the
8 jurisprudence of the Lone Star State; and

9 WHEREAS, This remarkable public servant, who began his career
10 before the advent of formal judicial training, was an advocate for
11 the professional education of Texas judges; his efforts culminated
12 in the establishment of compulsory judicial education and the
13 adoption of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct by the Supreme Court
14 of Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, Committed to ensuring justice for all Texans, Jack
16 Pope was instrumental in establishing the first permanent funding
17 source for legal aid in this state; rather than relying on tax
18 revenue, his plan uses interest paid out on attorneys' client-trust
19 accounts, and the money generated by this program currently funds
20 legal services for more than 100,000 families in such matters as
21 wrongful foreclosure, domestic violence, and cases where veterans
22 have not received their earned benefits; in 2013, in tribute to his
23 trailblazing efforts in behalf of legal aid, the Texas Legislature
24 passed the Chief Justice Jack Pope Act, which increased from \$10
25 million to \$50 million the amount that the Office of the Attorney
26 General can transfer to the Supreme Court of Texas to support the
27 provision of basic legal services for those who cannot otherwise

1 afford them; and

2 WHEREAS, In retirement, Chief Justice Pope donated most of
3 his papers to Abilene Christian University and The University of
4 Texas School of Law; in addition, he made a special contribution, a
5 portion of his personal law library, to the University of North
6 Texas at Dallas College of Law; this generous gift included a
7 complete set of signed *South Western Reporters*, bound compilations
8 of reported judicial decisions in the southwestern United States;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope also played a crucial role in
11 establishing the State Law Library as a separate agency in 1971 and
12 served as a member emeritus of the Friends of the State Law Library
13 Board of Directors; the library later recognized him and another
14 former chief justice, the late Joe Greenhill, with the creation of
15 the Greenhill-Pope Law Book Fund; he further contributed to his
16 profession as a charter member of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics
17 and as a cofounder of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society,
18 which published a collection of his writings under the title *Common*
19 *Law Judge*; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope credited Abilene Christian
21 University with his many achievements, and in return for the
22 invaluable lessons he learned there, he became one of the school's
23 staunchest supporters, joining the board of trustees in 1954 and
24 serving on the senior board for many years; he also chaired the
25 board for the *Christian Chronicle* newspaper; in appreciation for
26 his immeasurable service to the university, Abilene Christian
27 conferred on him an Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award and a

1 Change the World Award, and since 1989, through the Jack Pope
2 Fellows Program, it has bestowed scholarships on outstanding
3 students intending to pursue a career in public service; and

4 WHEREAS, Among countless other accolades, Chief Justice Pope
5 received four honorary degrees, the inaugural Judicial Lifetime
6 Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas, the inaugural Chief
7 Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award from the Texas Center for
8 Legal Ethics, and an Outstanding Alumnus Award from The University
9 of Texas School of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, In his final years, Chief Justice Pope remained
11 deeply grateful for his friends, neighbors, members of his church,
12 University Avenue Church of Christ, his longtime secretary, the
13 late Peggy Littlefield, and Lauren Barrett and the team of
14 caregivers whom he affectionately referred to as the "Little United
15 Nations" and about whom he wrote a book, describing them and their
16 ideas on caring for the elderly; and

17 WHEREAS, A true Texas statesman, Jack Pope was motivated not
18 by love of self but rather by an abiding concern for others, and
19 those he leaves behind will continue to find inspiration in his
20 accomplishments for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Chief Justice Jack
23 Pope and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to
24 his sons, A. J. Pope III and his wife, Carla, and Allen Pope and his
25 wife, Karen; to his grandchildren, Drew Pope, Ryan Pope and his
26 wife, Erin, and Billie Pope Locke and her husband, Jeff; to his
27 great-grandchildren, Dylan and Peyton Locke and Carinn and Caitlin

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1 Pope; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
6 Honorable Jack Pope Jr.