

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 1538

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a legendary football coach
2 with the passing of William Taylor Dykes on April 10, 2017, at the
3 age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Lubbock on March 14, 1938, "Spike" Dykes
5 developed a passion for sports at an early age and soon showed
6 exceptional athletic ability as well, becoming an All-State center
7 on the Ballinger High School football team; he subsequently played
8 football at Rice University before transferring to Stephen F.
9 Austin State University, where he graduated in 1959; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Dykes began his coaching career as an assistant
11 at Eastland and Ballinger High Schools before being named head
12 coach at Central High School in San Angelo in 1962; he went on to
13 lead programs at Coahoma, Belton, Big Spring, and Alice High
14 Schools, and in 1971, he was hired as an assistant coach at The
15 University of Texas at Austin; following five seasons there, he
16 worked on the staff at the University of New Mexico and then at
17 Mississippi State University; in 1980, he assumed the role of head
18 coach at Lee High School in Midland, where he piloted his squad to
19 the state finals in 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, The following year, Mr. Dykes joined the football
21 program at Texas Tech University as an assistant coach, and he was
22 promoted to head coach two years later; over the course of 13
23 seasons, he earned the distinction of becoming the first Tech coach
24 to appear in seven consecutive bowl games, including the Red

1 Raiders' All-American Bowl triumph in 1989 and their first Cotton
2 Bowl appearance in 56 years in 1995; by the time he retired in 1999,
3 he had garnered the most victories in school history, with an
4 overall record of 82 wins, 67 losses, and 1 tie; and

5 WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous honors, Mr. Dykes was
6 selected as Southwest Conference Coach of the Year three times and
7 as Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year once; he went on to be
8 inducted into the Texas Tech Athletics Hall of Honor in 2001 and the
9 Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 2008, and in 2011 he was presented with
10 a Distinguished Texan Award by the Texas Tech Chapter of the
11 National Football Foundation; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Dykes shared more than five decades of marriage
13 with the love of his life, Sharon, until her passing in 2010; over
14 the years, the couple were blessed with three children, Rick,
15 Sonny, and Bebe, and their family eventually grew to include eight
16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, Spike Dykes was renowned not only for his
18 outstanding ability as a coach of the game but also for his
19 generosity of spirit and his self-deprecating humor, which endeared
20 him to players, fellow coaches, and fans alike; he had a positive
21 impact on the many communities in which he worked, and he will
22 continue to be fondly remembered throughout the Lone Star State and
23 beyond for decades to come; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of William Taylor
26 "Spike" Dykes and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his
27 family and to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William
4 Taylor "Spike" Dykes.