

By: Lambert

H.R. No. 1625

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas legal community lost a true giant with the
2 passing of former state supreme court chief justice Jack Pope of
3 Austin on February 25, 2017, at the age of 103; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Abilene on April 18, 1913, Andrew Jackson
5 Pope Jr. was the son of Dr. A. J. Pope Sr. and Ruth Taylor Pope; he
6 completed his bachelor's degree at Abilene Christian University and
7 went on to graduate from The University of Texas at Austin School of
8 Law, where he was editor of the *Texas Law Review*; on June 11, 1938,
9 he married the former Allene Nichols, and they became the parents of
10 two sons, A. J. and Allen; and

11 WHEREAS, Justice Pope joined his uncle's law firm in Corpus
12 Christi but interrupted his career to serve as a U.S. Navy
13 cryptographer during World War II; following his return, he was
14 named judge of the 94th District Court, and in 1960, he won election
15 to the Fourth Court of Civil Appeals; he was elected to the Texas
16 Supreme Court four years later, and in 1982, he was appointed chief
17 justice; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of his remarkable 38-year tenure on
19 the bench, Justice Pope authored more than 1,000 opinions; many of
20 them were landmark decisions, and he transformed Texas water law
21 through his reassessment of the rights conveyed by Spanish and
22 Mexican land grants; moreover, he carried out significant reforms
23 to promote the integrity and efficiency of the legal system and to
24 ensure equal access to justice; he was a founder of the Texas Center

1 for the Judiciary, a judicial education institute, and he signed
2 the order mandating formal education for judges; ten years after
3 chairing the State Bar of Texas committee that drafted the first
4 voluntary judicial code of conduct, he drafted the initial
5 mandatory code, and he was a charter member of the Texas Center for
6 Legal Ethics; and

7 WHEREAS, An innovator in a range of different areas, Justice
8 Pope wrote the first handbook for citizens called to jury duty, and
9 he sponsored the founding of the State Law Library; as chief
10 justice, he guided the establishment of the Interest on Lawyers'
11 Trust Accounts Program, which funds civil legal aid to low-income
12 Texans, and when the program was dramatically expanded in 2013, the
13 enacted legislation was named the Chief Justice Jack Pope Act in his
14 honor; he also won legislative support for statutory changes to
15 thwart forum shopping for preferred judges; and

16 WHEREAS, Justice Pope received myriad accolades through the
17 years, including a lifetime achievement award from the Judicial
18 Section of the State Bar, Outstanding Alumnus honors from the UT
19 School of Law and Abilene Christian University, and honorary
20 degrees from a number of other colleges; for many years, he served
21 as a trustee of ACU, and he developed the Jack Pope Fellows Program
22 at the university to provide scholarships for students pursuing
23 careers in public service; most of his library and papers are
24 archived at the institution; and

25 WHEREAS, Following his retirement in 1985, Justice Pope
26 helped incorporate the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, and
27 in 2014 the society published *Common Law Judge*, a collection of his

1 writings; he remained an avid outdoorsman, and after passing his
2 100th birthday, he still enjoyed taking walks around his
3 neighborhood and Zilker Park; and

4 WHEREAS, Jack Pope left an indelible imprint on the Texas
5 legal system, and those who were privileged to share in the richness
6 of his life will forever cherish their memories of his wit, honesty,
7 common sense, and profound dedication to justice for all; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Jack
11 Pope and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Justice
16 Jack Pope.