

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1915

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 80th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly
2 cause for celebration, and Thomas James Patterson Sr. is reaching
3 that impressive milestone on June 29, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Hannah Lee Barton in Waxahachie in 1937,
5 T. J. Patterson graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in
6 Wichita Falls and attended Bishop College in Marshall, where he
7 earned his degree in 1954; while visiting Lubbock, he met his future
8 wife, Bobbie Gean Bailey, with whom he shared 52 years of marriage,
9 until her death in 2012; the couple raised three children, Avis
10 Elise, Thomas James, and Shelia Renee; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson joined the armed forces in 1961 and
12 served for 13 months in Vietnam; after returning to civilian life in
13 Lubbock, he embarked on a career in education, initially teaching
14 at Mary and Mac Private School; later, for much of the 1970s, he
15 served as assistant to the dean of the College of Business at Texas
16 Tech University; and

17 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan became the first African
18 American to hold elected public office in Lubbock when he won a seat
19 representing District 2 on the city council in 1984; he served in
20 that post for 20 years, and during his tenure, he also became the
21 first African American in Lubbock to hold the office of mayor pro
22 tempore; in addition, Mr. Patterson served as the first black
23 president of the Texas Municipal League, and he founded and served
24 as president of the Association of Black City Council members; and

1 WHEREAS, A longtime champion of civil rights and the black
2 community, T. J. Patterson cofounded the *Southwest Digest*, which
3 has given voice to the concerns and perspectives of African
4 Americans in northwest Texas since its inception in 1977; over the
5 years, he has also led nearly 100 local marches against violence and
6 drugs, and every Christmas for the past 22 years, he has shared a
7 message of hope with inmates of the Lubbock County Jail; and

8 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to a life of service, Mr. Patterson
9 has received a host of accolades in recognition of his efforts to
10 help others and to better his community; his honors include being
11 named Texas Tech's Man of the Year by the university's student
12 yearbook, *La Ventana*, and having a library, now known as the Bobbie
13 Gean and T. J. Patterson Public Library, dedicated in his honor; and

14 WHEREAS, Respected and admired by all those who are
15 privileged to know him, T. J. Patterson may reflect with great
16 satisfaction on a lifetime of achievement, and it is indeed a
17 pleasure to join his many friends and loved ones in honoring him on
18 this memorable occasion; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Thomas James Patterson Sr. on his
21 80th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future;
22 and, be it further

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