

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 2521

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a venerated coach drew to a close with
2 the passing of Bob Patterson on May 15, 2017, at the age of 84; and

3 WHEREAS, A native of New Jersey, Bob Patterson graduated from
4 Penns Grove High School in Carneys Point, where he lettered on the
5 football, basketball, baseball, and track teams and received the
6 1950 William J. Miles Award for Outstanding High School Athlete; he
7 then attended the University of Tennessee on a football scholarship
8 for two seasons, and while there, he was part of the 1951 national
9 championship team; he subsequently transferred to Memphis State
10 University in 1953, and he earned All-American honors for two
11 consecutive years as well as Most Valuable Player and Outstanding
12 Player of the Year Awards before graduating in 1955; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson, known to many by the nickname
14 "Punkin," joined the University of Southwestern Louisiana as an
15 assistant football coach in 1958; he subsequently served on the
16 coaching staff at Memphis State from 1961 to 1963 and at Vanderbilt
17 University from 1963 to 1974 before moving to Texas Tech University
18 in 1975; at Tech, he served as a defensive line coach and
19 administrative assistant on the staffs of legendary head coaches
20 Steve Sloan and Rex Dockery, and he helped guide the 1976 Red
21 Raiders team to a fifth-place national ranking during the season
22 and an overall record of 10 wins and 2 losses; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1981, Mr. Patterson returned to Memphis State as
24 athletic director and assistant football coach, and he later served

1 as a defensive line coach for the Memphis Showboats of the U.S.
2 Football League before retiring in 1986; he went on to work as a
3 part-time NFL scout for the New England Patriots, the New York Jets,
4 and the Baltimore Ravens; and

5 WHEREAS, In recognition of his many accomplishments,
6 Mr. Patterson was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame,
7 the University of Memphis M Club Hall of Fame, and the Penns Grove
8 High School Athletic Hall of Fame, in addition to being selected to
9 the UofM All-Time Tiger Team; moreover, he was presented with the
10 2016 Zinn Volunteer of the Year Award by the AutoZone Liberty Bowl
11 and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the All-American Football
12 Foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, Bob Patterson was renowned not only for his
14 exceptional skills as a coach but also for his generosity of spirit,
15 his hearty laugh, and his easygoing manner, all of which endeared
16 him to players, fellow coaches, and fans alike; he had a positive
17 impact on the many communities in which he worked, and he will
18 continue to be fondly remembered across the Lone Star State and
19 beyond for years to come; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bob Patterson and
22 extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and, be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bob
27 Patterson.