86R12073 CW-D

By:  Raney H.R. No. 751

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed NFL and college football official drew to a close with the passing of Mason L. Cashion Jr. on February 10, 2019, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, "Red" Cashion was born in College Station on November 10, 1931, to Mason and Winnie Cashion, and he grew up with the companionship of a brother, James; a multisport athlete at A&M Consolidated High School, he went on to attend Texas A&M University on a baseball scholarship and graduated in 1953; he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and spent much of his four-year military tenure with the National Security Agency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cashion began officiating junior high football games while still a Texas A&M student, but his initial tenure calling Southland Conference college games in the 1960s came to an end after football coaches complained about his aloof demeanor on the field; determined to make a change, he adopted an enthusiastic approach to his work, and he returned to officiating in the college ranks before joining the NFL in 1972; initially a line judge, he was promoted to referee in 1976, and he went on to call more than 500 games over the course of 25 years, including Super Bowls XX and XXX; his trademark was his elongated "first dowwwwn" call, delivered in a Brazos Valley drawl, which became a favorite of TV audiences; after retiring in 1997, he remained active with the league, training officials on a paid and volunteer basis; and

WHEREAS, Highly respected by his peers, Mr. Cashion served as president of the Professional Referees Association and garnered the NFL's prestigious Art McNally Award; moreover, he was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, and the football officials' locker room at Texas A&M's Kyle Field bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cashion enjoyed the love and support of his first wife, Lou Burgess Cashion, during their 47 years together; following her death, he was fortunate enough to find love again and shared a rewarding marriage with Marie Cashion; he took great pride in his children, James, Sharon, Joyce, and Shelley, as well as in his six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; a valued member of the Bryan-College Station community, he helped found the Burgess, Cashion & Haddox insurance business, which later became Anco Insurance, and he was a member of several area congregations through the years, most recently A&M United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, While Red Cashion's passing brings great sadness to all who had the good fortune to know him, his accomplishments will continue to be remembered and admired for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Mason L. Cashion Jr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Red Cashion.