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By:  Sherman, Sr. H.R. No. 823

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Willis West Jr. passed away on March 1, 2019, at the age of 91, concluding a life that was rich in meaningful accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 18, 1927, Willis West Jr. was the son of Willis West Sr. and Maggie Spears-West, and he grew up with the companionship of five siblings, Leron, Mildred, James, Julia, and Bobbie; he attended public schools in Oklahoma before joining the United States Army in 1946; stationed at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland, he was assigned as a reconnaissance car crewman, and he was recognized for his service with the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Honorary Medal for Governance & Leadership; and

WHEREAS, A member of the National Carpenter's Union, Mr. West worked as a self-employed carpenter, and in the course of his career, he served as a mentor to anyone who wanted to learn the trade; he ultimately retired in 1995 as a master carpenter; over the years, he also made his living as a seafood and produce vendor; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman was admired for his honesty as well as his caring heart and generosity toward those in need; deeply committed to his faith, he served as a deacon at Maple Springs Baptist Church in Maryland from 1998 to 2003, and at the time of his passing, he was a valued member of the House of Praise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West cherished the time he spent with his loving family, which included his wife of nearly 50 years, Eunice West; he took great pride in his children, Kevin, Royce, Carnell, Willis, Diane, and Larry, and stepchildren, James, Wayne, and Kimberly, as well as in his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Willis West was a source of wisdom, inspiration, and joy to all who held him dear, and he leaves them with a host of wonderful memories that they will forever treasure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Willis West Jr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family 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 Willis West Jr.