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By:  Meza H.R. No. 1057

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to a close with the passing of Michael William Lehr, former executive director of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, on January 17, 2019, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 22, 1929, to Louisa and George Lehr at his family's farm in Wall, Mike Lehr was the youngest of five children; he experienced the tragic loss of both his mother and father at an early age and was raised by his maternal aunt and her husband, Betty and John Mees; the family moved to Abilene during his early childhood, and he distinguished himself in high school as a football player and a member of the track team; following his graduation from Abilene High School in 1948, he enrolled at McMurry College, where he earned his bachelor's degree and, later, a master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehr became a teacher and coach in Christoval in 1952, and from there, he went on to work for the school districts in Eola and San Angelo; after transitioning into administration, he served as principal of Travis Elementary, Bowie Elementary, and John Glenn Jr. High in San Angelo, and in 1971 he accepted a position as assistant director of special programs with Austin ISD; he was promoted many times during his tenure with that district, and he retired as its executive director of personnel in 1985; his experience also encompassed service as a legislative aide to State Representative Tom C. Massey in the 1970s and as a founder and president of the Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement from Austin ISD, Mr. Lehr performed contract work for the Texas Association of School Boards, and in 1987 he became the legislative coordinator for the Texas Retired Teachers Association; in that role, he successfully supported legislation that funded a much-needed pay increase for retired educators, an achievement that won him an outpouring of gratitude; he was named the organization's executive director in 1994, and he continued to work in behalf of the association's members until his retirement in 2003; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Lehr enjoyed the love and support of his wife of 44 years, Francine Lehr; he was the proud father of three children, Richard, Alan, and Susan, and with the passing years, he saw his family grow to include his grandchildren, Ellen, Grant, William, and Abigail, and a great-granddaughter, Finley; and

WHEREAS, A respected educator and an effective advocate for the teaching profession, Mike Lehr made a positive difference in the lives of numerous Texans, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to resonate for 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 Michael William Lehr and extend sincere sympathy to his family and many 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 Mike Lehr.