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By:  Harris H.R. No. 1235

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of East Texas lost an admired jurist with the death of the Honorable Bascom William Bentley III on December 11, 2017, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, The son of Dr. Bascom Bentley Jr. and Kelly Bentley, Bascom Bentley was born on March 27, 1951; he grew up with a sister, Belle, and a brother, Newell; after attending Palestine High School, he completed his bachelor's degree at The University of Texas at Austin and went on to graduate from the University of Houston Law Center in 1976; he married the former Carol Swift, and they were blessed with four children, Bonnie, Bascom, Hunter, and Matthew; later in life, he experienced the joy of welcoming into his family a granddaughter, Scarlett; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bentley was appointed Palestine city attorney in 1977, and he went on to serve Anderson County as county attorney and court at law judge; in 1989, he was appointed as the first judge of the newly created 369th District Court, and he fulfilled the duties of that position with distinction until his retirement in 2017; serious but unpretentious, he knew when to introduce levity to the proceedings, and he was a mentor to many; he taught at Trinity Valley Community College for 37 years and served on the faculty of the Texas Center for the Judiciary; in addition, he was a member of the Texas College for New Judges and president of the Anderson County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Judge Bentley benefited many charitable organizations and served as president of the United Way of East/Central Texas, Salvation Army, and Red Cross; he was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church of Palestine, where he was chair of the board and taught the Judge EV Swift Men's Bible Study; among numerous honors, he received the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce and the Outstanding Local Leader Award from the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute and The University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Bascom Bentley earned the respect and admiration of innumerable people over the course of his long career in public service, and those who were privileged to know him will forever cherish their memories of his warmth, kindness, and wonderful sense of humor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Bascom William Bentley III and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing; 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 Judge Bascom William Bentley III.