

By: Shaheen

H.R. No. 165

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable John Payton stepped down as Collin
2 County justice of the peace for Precinct 3, Place 2, on January 2,
3 2019, drawing to a close nearly three decades of outstanding
4 service to the citizens of the county; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Payton was only 18 and still a senior at Plano
6 East Senior High School when he first ran for the position in 1990;
7 he defeated the incumbent in the primary with 52 percent of the vote
8 and went on to win the general election; as the youngest person on
9 record ever to serve as a judge, his achievement was recorded in the
10 *Guinness Book of World Records*, and he was invited to appear on *Late*
11 *Night with David Letterman*; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary 28-year tenure as
13 justice of the peace, Judge Payton distinguished himself through
14 his creative efforts to reduce truancy; he offered stern but
15 compassionate guidance to the tens of thousands of young people who
16 appeared before him, using a variety of techniques to improve their
17 school attendance, such as requiring them to perform community
18 service, attend anger-management classes, or participate in
19 wilderness programs; this special emphasis on truancy earned him
20 the respect and admiration of parents and educators, and he has
21 regularly received graduation invitations from students who were
22 grateful for his intervention; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge Payton earned an associate's degree from
24 Collin College and has pursued further studies at Dallas Baptist

1 University; he is a leader in the Collin County Republican Party,
2 and he has given generously of his time and effort through his work
3 with Habitat for Humanity, often wielding a hammer alongside
4 students he had sentenced to community service; he has been
5 recognized with the Dixie Clem Award, the Fred and Mazzie Moses
6 Community Builder Award, and the John McVeigh Lifetime Achievement
7 Award; and

8 WHEREAS, John Payton's dedication, professionalism, and
9 commitment to the young people of Collin County have greatly
10 benefited his community, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a
11 career well spent as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his
12 life; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable John Payton for his long
15 service as Collin County justice of the peace and extend to him
16 sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Judge Payton as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.