

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of a beloved figure in the Temple and  
2 Houston sports communities drew to a close with the passing of Gene  
3 Pemberton on January 27, 2019, at the age of 79; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of E. M. and Aleyne Pemberton, Gene  
5 Pemberton was born in Cameron on October 27, 1939, and he grew up  
6 with the companionship of two siblings, Stanton and Cheryl; he  
7 graduated from Temple High School and Temple Junior College and  
8 earned a business administration degree from Hardin-Simmons  
9 University in 1962; after joining the American Desk Manufacturing  
10 Company, he rose to the positions of vice president of marketing and  
11 director of special projects during his 31-year tenure with the  
12 company; and

13           WHEREAS, A dedicated sports fan, Mr. Pemberton officiated  
14 basketball and football games, and in 1984 he was awarded lifetime  
15 membership in the Southwest Basketball Officials Association; he  
16 entered the sports broadcast booth in 1986, embarking on a storied  
17 career as the voice of the Temple High School Wildcats football team  
18 that spanned 28 years; providing color commentary for KTEM  
19 NewsRadio 14, Mr. Pemberton partnered with Mark McLain on the  
20 broadcasts, and the pair garnered numerous accolades, including a  
21 prestigious Katie Award from the Press Club of Dallas in 1993;  
22 Mr. Pemberton gave his final broadcast in 2014, detailing the  
23 Wildcats' runner-up finish in the 5A Division 1 state championship  
24 game; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Pemberton joined the Houston Astros  
2 organization in 1994 and initially held the title of director of  
3 community development; in 1997, he was named the team's chaplain,  
4 becoming the first person in Major League Baseball to hold such a  
5 position on a full-time basis; he remained with the club until 2011,  
6 and in the course of his service, he helped develop numerous  
7 outreach initiatives and formed a close bond with numerous players;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Pemberton enjoyed the love  
10 and support of his wife, Mary Holick Pemberton, and they shared a  
11 rewarding marriage that spanned 55 years before her passing; he  
12 took great pride in his three children, Gary, Allen, and Lisa, and  
13 he had the pleasure of welcoming into his family five  
14 grandchildren, Brandon, Andrew, Jeffrey, Elisabeth, and Emalye; a  
15 valued member of his community, Mr. Pemberton was involved with  
16 numerous civic activities and served as a deacon at Bethel Church of  
17 the Assemblies of God; and

18           WHEREAS, Gene Pemberton lived a rich and purposeful life  
19 centered on his family, his faith, and his deep love of sports, and  
20 he will long be remembered and admired by all those who had the good  
21 fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Gene Pemberton and  
24 extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends; and, be it  
25 further

26           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 349

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gene  
2 Pemberton.

Shine

H.R. No. 349

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 349 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 13, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House