

By: Shine

H.R. No. 349

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

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