

By: Raney

H.R. No. 751

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed NFL and college football
2 official drew to a close with the passing of Mason L. Cashion Jr. on
3 February 10, 2019, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, "Red" Cashion was born in College Station on
5 November 10, 1931, to Mason and Winnie Cashion, and he grew up with
6 the companionship of a brother, James; a multisport athlete at A&M
7 Consolidated High School, he went on to attend Texas A&M University
8 on a baseball scholarship and graduated in 1953; he was
9 commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and spent much
10 of his four-year military tenure with the National Security Agency;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Cashion began officiating junior high football
13 games while still a Texas A&M student, but his initial tenure
14 calling Southland Conference college games in the 1960s came to an
15 end after football coaches complained about his aloof demeanor on
16 the field; determined to make a change, he adopted an enthusiastic
17 approach to his work, and he returned to officiating in the college
18 ranks before joining the NFL in 1972; initially a line judge, he was
19 promoted to referee in 1976, and he went on to call more than 500
20 games over the course of 25 years, including Super Bowls XX and XXX;
21 his trademark was his elongated "first dowwwwn" call, delivered in
22 a Brazos Valley drawl, which became a favorite of TV audiences;
23 after retiring in 1997, he remained active with the league,
24 training officials on a paid and volunteer basis; and

1 WHEREAS, Highly respected by his peers, Mr. Cashion served as
2 president of the Professional Referees Association and garnered the
3 NFL's prestigious Art McNally Award; moreover, he was inducted into
4 the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, and the football officials'
5 locker room at Texas A&M's Kyle Field bears his name; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Cashion enjoyed the love and support of his
7 first wife, Lou Burgess Cashion, during their 47 years together;
8 following her death, he was fortunate enough to find love again and
9 shared a rewarding marriage with Marie Cashion; he took great pride
10 in his children, James, Sharon, Joyce, and Shelley, as well as in
11 his six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; a valued member
12 of the Bryan-College Station community, he helped found the
13 Burgess, Cashion & Haddox insurance business, which later became
14 Anco Insurance, and he was a member of several area congregations
15 through the years, most recently A&M United Methodist Church; and

16 WHEREAS, While Red Cashion's passing brings great sadness to
17 all who had the good fortune to know him, his accomplishments will
18 continue to be remembered and admired for many years to come; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Mason L. Cashion Jr.
22 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends; and, be
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Red
27 Cashion.