

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost an admired lawmaker with
2 the passing of James Arthur Turman, former speaker of the Texas
3 House of Representatives, on February 13, 2019, at the age of 91;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Jimmy Turman was born in Fannin County to James
6 Wesley Turman and Clive Scarborough Turman on November 29, 1927,
7 and later worked his way through East Texas State Teachers College,
8 earning bachelor's and master's degrees; he began his career in
9 education when he was only 19 and worked as a teacher and principal
10 in Wolfe City before being hired as a junior high school principal
11 in Paris; after serving with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, he
12 settled in Gober; and

13 WHEREAS, This dedicated public servant won election to the
14 first of four terms in the Texas House of Representatives in 1954;
15 he drew on his experience as a teacher and school administrator
16 while serving on the Education Committee, which he chaired during
17 the 55th Legislature, and the School Districts Committee; he also
18 chaired the Municipal and Private Corporations Committee and spent
19 two sessions on the Banks and Banking Committee; during his time as
20 a legislator, he completed his doctoral degree in educational
21 administration and psychology at The University of Texas at Austin,
22 and when he was elected as speaker of the 57th Texas Legislature in
23 1961, he became the first holder of a doctorate to serve as the
24 chamber's presiding officer; and

1 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Speaker Turman, the house
2 chamber was air-conditioned, and he arranged for the allocation of
3 private offices in the Capitol to many rank-and-file members for
4 the first time; he served as chair of the Legislative Audit
5 Committee, established the State Employees Classification System,
6 and promoted passage of a bill supporting the University of
7 Houston; committed to fair remuneration for educators, he secured a
8 teacher pay raise, and he successfully advocated for better wages
9 and more reasonable hours for firefighters as well; in addition,
10 the state's first general sales tax was enacted during his
11 speakership after he forged an agreement with Governor Price Daniel
12 that enabled the bill to become law; his involvement in state
13 politics also included an unsuccessful bid for the office of
14 lieutenant governor in 1962; and

15 WHEREAS, Speaker Turman began working as an assistant to the
16 president and as an assistant professor at Texas Woman's University
17 in 1957, and during his tenure, he established the TWU Foundation
18 and served as its first director; he went on to join the U.S. Office
19 of Education and rose to become associate commissioner, the highest
20 civil service position in the agency; concurrently, he served on
21 the Education Commission of the States, and President Lyndon
22 B. Johnson appointed him to the J. William Fulbright Foreign
23 Scholarship Board; he served in subsequent administrations as
24 director of the President's National Advisory Council on Extension
25 and Continuing Education and as a consultant to the President's
26 Council on Physical Fitness; moreover, he shared his expertise as a
27 member of presidential task forces on public school desegregation;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, During his time in the nation's capital, Speaker
3 Turman founded two national educational management consulting
4 corporations; he later worked as chief of staff for Texas congress
5 member Jim Mattox and as a liaison to the House Budget Committee; in
6 his next role, as regional director of refugee resettlement in
7 Dallas for the Department of Health and Human Services, he helped
8 immigrants from Vietnam and Cambodia make new homes in the
9 U.S. following the fall of Saigon; in 1986, he retired from the
10 civil service and joined the Office of the State Comptroller as a
11 senior research analyst; he organized Chaparral Mining Corporation
12 four years later and held the offices of board chair, president, and
13 CEO with the company; and

14 WHEREAS, During retirement, Speaker Turman traveled North
15 America in an RV with his beloved wife and best friend, Joanie
16 Turman, visiting all 49 state capitols across the continental U.S.;
17 when not on the road, the couple enjoyed residing near their friend
18 Willie Nelson in the Village of Briarcliff; Speaker Turman was the
19 father of one son, James A. Turman Jr., who preceded him in death;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In recognition of this admired Texan's many
22 achievements, the Texas Legislature unanimously designated
23 Farm-to-Market Road 68 in Fannin County as Speaker Jimmy Turman
24 Road in 2005, and he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas
25 A&M University-Commerce in 2009; and

26 WHEREAS, Through his tremendous dedication to the Lone Star
27 State and to public education, Jimmy Turman made a positive

1 difference in the lives of countless people, and his contributions
2 will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable James
6 Arthur Turman and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones: to
7 his wife, Joanie Turman; to his sister, Mary Ann Reagan; to his
8 former brother-in-law, Dr. Billy R. Reagan; and to all who mourn
9 his passing; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Speaker
13 Turman.

Howard

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Noble
Allen	Guillen	Oliverson
Allison	Gutierrez	Ortega
Anchia	Harless	Pacheco
Anderson	Harris	Paddie
Ashby	Hefner	Parker
Bailes	Hernandez	Patterson
Beckley	Herrero	Paul
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Perez
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Phelan
Bernal	Howard	Price
Biedermann	Huberty	Ramos
Blanco	Hunter	Raney
Bohac	Israel	Raymond
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Reynolds
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Romero, Jr.
Bucy	Kacal	Rose
Burns	King of Hemphill	Rosenthal
Burrows	King of Parker	Sanford
Button	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Cain	Klick	Shaheen
Calanni	Krause	Sheffield
Canales	Kuempel	Sherman, Sr.
Capriglione	Lambert	Shine
Clardy	Landgraf	Smith
Cole	Lang	Smithee
Coleman	Larson	Springer
Collier	Leach	Stephenson
Cortez	Leman	Stickland
Craddick	Longoria	Stucky
Cyrrier	Lopez	Swanson
Darby	Lozano	Talarico
Davis of Dallas	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Harris	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Dean	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Deshotel	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Dominguez	Meyer	Toth
Dutton	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Farrar	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Fierro	Miller	VanDeaver
Flynn	Minjarez	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morales	White
Geren	Morrison	Wilson
Gervin-Hawkins	Muñoz, Jr.	Wray
Goldman	Murphy	Wu
González of Dallas	Murr	Zedler
González of El Paso	Neave	Zerwas
Goodwin	Nevárez	Zwiener

H.R. No. 787

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 787 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 21, 2019.

Chief Clerk of the House