

By: Price

H.R. No. 840

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life of professional achievement and dedicated
2 public service drew to a close with the passing of former state
3 representative James Benjamin Bynum of Amarillo on February 15,
4 2019, at the age of 75; and

5 WHEREAS, Ben Bynum was born in Amarillo on April 16, 1943, to
6 James and Isabel Bynum; he attended Amarillo High School, where he
7 was an active member of the speech and debate team and graduated as
8 part of the Class of 1961; he went on to study at The University of
9 Texas at Austin, serving as president of the Lambda Chi Alpha
10 fraternity and on the athletic council under Darrell Royal; and

11 WHEREAS, In the late 1960s, Mr. Bynum launched his political
12 career, and in 1971, he won election to the Texas House of
13 Representatives; over the course of three consecutive terms in
14 office, he chaired the Committee on Insurance, the Interim
15 Committee on Capitol Use and Public Information, and the Committee
16 on Highway Beautification, and he also held membership on the House
17 Administration, Common Carriers, Constitutional Amendments,
18 Elections, Medical Welfare Program, Parks, and State Affairs
19 Committees, among others; and

20 WHEREAS, Following his tenure in the legislature, Mr. Bynum
21 was elected as county judge of Potter County, and he assisted in the
22 establishment of the Potter County Courts Building; in the
23 mid-1980s, he became the executive director of the Care Unit in
24 Canyon, where he worked tirelessly to help individuals overcome

1 substance abuse issues; he then assumed the position of executive
2 director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse under
3 Governor Ann Richards, remaining there until his retirement; and

4 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Bynum enjoyed the love and
5 support of his wife, Penny, with whom he shared a rewarding marriage
6 that spanned 52 years; he was the proud father of two daughters,
7 Susan and Brooke, and he had the pleasure of seeing his family grow
8 to include five grandchildren; in his later years, he served on the
9 Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation board and delighted in cheering
10 on the Texas Longhorns; and

11 WHEREAS, An engaged citizen, a devoted family man, and an
12 admired public servant, Ben Bynum leaves behind a legacy of good
13 works that will long resonate in the Amarillo community and beyond;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James Benjamin Bynum
17 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
18 wife, Penny Bynum; to his children, Susan Lewallen and her husband,
19 Cliff, and Brooke McKinney and her husband, Page; to his
20 grandchildren, Lindsey, Emily, and Peyton Lewallen and Nelson and
21 Charlie McKinney; to his sister, Ann Whittenburg; and to his other
22 relatives and friends; and, be it further

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