

By: Meza

H.R. No. 1057

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of Michael William Lehr, former executive
3 director of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, on January 17,
4 2019, at the age of 89; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on December 22, 1929, to Louisa and George Lehr
6 at his family's farm in Wall, Mike Lehr was the youngest of five
7 children; he experienced the tragic loss of both his mother and
8 father at an early age and was raised by his maternal aunt and her
9 husband, Betty and John Mees; the family moved to Abilene during his
10 early childhood, and he distinguished himself in high school as a
11 football player and a member of the track team; following his
12 graduation from Abilene High School in 1948, he enrolled at McMurry
13 College, where he earned his bachelor's degree and, later, a
14 master's degree; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Lehr became a teacher and coach in Christoval in
16 1952, and from there, he went on to work for the school districts in
17 Eola and San Angelo; after transitioning into administration, he
18 served as principal of Travis Elementary, Bowie Elementary, and
19 John Glenn Jr. High in San Angelo, and in 1971 he accepted a
20 position as assistant director of special programs with Austin ISD;
21 he was promoted many times during his tenure with that district, and
22 he retired as its executive director of personnel in 1985; his
23 experience also encompassed service as a legislative aide to State
24 Representative Tom C. Massey in the 1970s and as a founder and

1 president of the Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from Austin ISD, Mr. Lehr
4 performed contract work for the Texas Association of School Boards,
5 and in 1987 he became the legislative coordinator for the Texas
6 Retired Teachers Association; in that role, he successfully
7 supported legislation that funded a much-needed pay increase for
8 retired educators, an achievement that won him an outpouring of
9 gratitude; he was named the organization's executive director in
10 1994, and he continued to work in behalf of the association's
11 members until his retirement in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Lehr enjoyed the love and
13 support of his wife of 44 years, Francine Lehr; he was the proud
14 father of three children, Richard, Alan, and Susan, and with the
15 passing years, he saw his family grow to include his grandchildren,
16 Ellen, Grant, William, and Abigail, and a great-granddaughter,
17 Finley; and

18 WHEREAS, A respected educator and an effective advocate for
19 the teaching profession, Mike Lehr made a positive difference in
20 the lives of numerous Texans, and he leaves behind a legacy that
21 will continue to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Michael William
24 Lehr and extend sincere sympathy to his family and many friends;
25 and, be it 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 Mike Lehr.