

By: Buckley

H.R. No. 1145

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a Lone Star State sports legend drew to a
2 close with the passing of Johnny "Lam" Jones on March 15, 2019, at
3 the age of 60; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of John Jones and Mary Jones Dillon, John
5 Wesley Jones II was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, on April 4, 1958; he
6 first gained acclaim at Lampasas High School as an all-state
7 football player and track star, and he delivered a performance for
8 the ages at the 1976 Texas state track meet; after winning the
9 100-yard and 220-yard dashes, he anchored the Lampasas mile relay
10 squad, taking the baton in last place and overtaking the entire
11 field during an electrifying final lap to win the race and cinch the
12 team title for his school; a short time later, he gained
13 international glory when he won Olympic gold in Montreal as a member
14 of the U.S. 4x100-meter relay team; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones went on to letter in football and track at
16 The University of Texas at Austin; recruited as a running back, he
17 shared the backfield with Johnny Jones of Hamlin, and head coach
18 Darrell Royal dubbed the pair Johnny "Lam" Jones and Johnny "Ham"
19 Jones in honor of their hometowns; playing wide receiver his final
20 three seasons, Lam Jones was named the team's Most Valuable Player
21 in 1978 and garnered All-American recognition in 1978 and 1979;
22 moreover, he was a two-time All-Southwest Conference football pick
23 and an All-American track performer, setting school records at the
24 100-yard, 100-meter, and 220-yard distances; his athletic

1 accomplishments at UT were later recognized with his induction into
2 the Longhorn Hall of Honor, and he was also a member of the Texas
3 High School Football Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, Chosen by the New York Jets as the second overall
5 pick in the 1980 NFL Draft, Mr. Jones signed a \$2.1 million
6 contract, the first million-dollar deal in league history; one of
7 the fastest players to ever don a football uniform, he caught 138
8 passes for 2,322 yards and 13 touchdowns in five seasons with the
9 Jets; though often hampered by injuries during his pro career, he
10 helped New York to qualify for the playoffs in 1981 and 1982 and
11 advance to the AFC Championship Game the latter season; he spent the
12 1985 and 1986 seasons on the Jets' injured reserve list and then
13 joined the San Francisco and Dallas organizations before retiring;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Off the field, Mr. Jones worked in sales and served
16 as a motivational speaker, often talking with high school athletes
17 about his own experiences; he was also active with Special Olympics
18 Texas and even donated his Olympic gold medal to the organization;
19 diagnosed with cancer in 2005, he courageously battled the disease
20 for nearly a decade and a half; and

21 WHEREAS, Johnny Lam Jones earned a place in the pantheon of
22 great athletes who hailed from the Lone Star State, and the legacy
23 of this Olympic champion and gridiron star will long be treasured by
24 all those who witnessed his achievements; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Johnny Lam Jones and
27 extend sincere condolences to his relatives and friends; and, be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Johnny Lam
5 Jones.