

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of East Texas lost an admired jurist with  
2 the death of the Honorable Bascom William Bentley III on December  
3 11, 2017, at the age of 66; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Dr. Bascom Bentley Jr. and Kelly Bentley,  
5 Bascom Bentley was born on March 27, 1951; he grew up with a sister,  
6 Belle, and a brother, Newell; after attending Palestine High  
7 School, he completed his bachelor's degree at The University of  
8 Texas at Austin and went on to graduate from the University of  
9 Houston Law Center in 1976; he married the former Carol Swift, and  
10 they were blessed with four children, Bonnie, Bascom, Hunter, and  
11 Matthew; later in life, he experienced the joy of welcoming into his  
12 family a granddaughter, Scarlett; and

13           WHEREAS, Judge Bentley was appointed Palestine city attorney  
14 in 1977, and he went on to serve Anderson County as county attorney  
15 and court at law judge; in 1989, he was appointed as the first judge  
16 of the newly created 369th District Court, and he fulfilled the  
17 duties of that position with distinction until his retirement in  
18 2017; serious but unpretentious, he knew when to introduce levity  
19 to the proceedings, and he was a mentor to many; he taught at  
20 Trinity Valley Community College for 37 years and served on the  
21 faculty of the Texas Center for the Judiciary; in addition, he was a  
22 member of the Texas College for New Judges and president of the  
23 Anderson County Bar Association; and

24           WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Judge Bentley

1 benefited many charitable organizations and served as president of  
2 the United Way of East/Central Texas, Salvation Army, and Red  
3 Cross; he was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church of  
4 Palestine, where he was chair of the board and taught the Judge EV  
5 Swift Men's Bible Study; among numerous honors, he received the  
6 Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the  
7 Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce and the Outstanding Local Leader  
8 Award from the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute and  
9 The University of Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Bascom Bentley earned the respect and admiration of  
11 innumerable people over the course of his long career in public  
12 service, and those who were privileged to know him will forever  
13 cherish their memories of his warmth, kindness, and wonderful sense  
14 of humor; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Bascom William  
17 Bentley III and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn his  
18 passing; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge  
22 Bascom William Bentley III.

Harris

H.R. No. 1235

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1235 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 26, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House