

By: Harris

H.R. No. 1235

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.