

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 347

In Memory  
of  
Willis West Jr.

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Willis West Jr., who died March 1, 2019, at the age of 91; and

**WHEREAS**, Willis West Jr. was an exemplary citizen who was widely respected and admired in his community for his achievements and his exceptionally generous spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, He was born on June 18, 1927, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Willis West Sr. and Maggie Spears-West, and he attended public schools in Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, He enlisted in the United States Army on January 10, 1946, and he served the nation with distinction as a member of a reconnaissance car crew, which provides vital military intelligence to the chain of command; he was stationed at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland and received numerous awards and citations, including the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Purple Heart; he received an honorary medal for governance and leadership at the time of his honorable discharge; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. West was a longtime member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; self-employed, he secured contracts for businesses and home renovations and served as a mentor to countless young carpenters; he retired in 1995 as a master carpenter; and

**WHEREAS**, He also established his own company as a licensed vendor and sold fresh seafood and produce to small businesses and area neighborhoods; he was known for giving away his merchandise rather than see anyone go hungry; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. West was blessed with a wonderful family; his beloved wife of 49 years, Eunice, provided him invaluable support in all his endeavors; his children, Kevin, Royce, Carnell, Willis, Diane, and the late Larry, his stepchildren, James, Wayne, and Kimberly, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren were a source of much pride and joy for him; and

**WHEREAS**, A devout Christian who practiced his faith in his daily life, he served as a deacon at Maple Springs Baptist Church in Capital Heights, Maryland, and was a member of House of Praise Ministries, and he took great pleasure in listening to gospel music; and

**WHEREAS**, Willis West Jr. was a man of strength, kindness, and wisdom; his forthrightness and his stern yet fair manner had a profound impact on his family and on all those who were privileged to share in his life; and

**WHEREAS**, A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Willis West Jr.; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Willis West Jr.

West

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 12, 2019, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate