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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 58

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas A&M community is mourning the loss of admired educator Dr. Joe David Townsend of South Padre Island, who passed away on July 1, 2021, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Born to Charles Eli Townsend and Pauline Townsend on July 24, 1945, Joe Townsend grew up with a brother, Donald, and graduated from McAllen High School; while earning his bachelor's degree in agricultural education at Texas A&M University, he served as president of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences student council, and he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the Agricultural Leadership Society, FFA, and the 4-H Club; he began his career as a high school teacher while completing a master's degree and doctoral degree in agricultural education at Iowa State University, and he taught at both Iowa State and Illinois State; and

WHEREAS, "Dr. Joe" returned to Texas A&M in 1984 and became associate dean for students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and associate vice president for students; over the course of a quarter century, he taught at least 1,000 students per semester; he received numerous accolades, including the University Distinguished Teaching Award, the John J. Koldus III Award from the Division of Student Affairs, and the Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; in addition, he was recognized by Minorities in Agriculture and the Natural Resources and Related Sciences Council, and he was honored four times by the Association of Former Students; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Dr. Townsend shared a fulfilling marriage of 41 years with his wife, Christine Davis Townsend; he took great pride in his children, Kelly and Michael, and his four grandchildren; in 2009, Dr. Christine Townsend established the Dr. Joe D. Townsend Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications Leadership Fellows Program at Texas A&M in honor of her husband; the couple was inducted into the Texas Letterman's Association Hall of Honor together; and

WHEREAS, Joe David Townsend enriched the lives of countless students over the course of his long career in higher education, and his contributions to Texas A&M University will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Joe David Townsend and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe David Townsend.