

By: Cook

H.R. No. 106

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Tarrant County are mourning the loss of
2 former state representative Toby Ray Goodman of Mansfield, who
3 passed away on July 18, 2021, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Dobbie and Johnnie Goodman in Wichita Falls
5 on November 2, 1948, Toby Goodman grew up with four younger
6 siblings, Mike, DeDe, Gary, and Joe; he graduated from Texas
7 Christian University and went on to earn his law degree at Baylor
8 University; in 1974, he was hired as an assistant city attorney in
9 Arlington, and three years later, he entered private practice in
10 family law; in the course of his career, he established the firm of
11 Goodman & Clark and taught as an adjunct professor at The University
12 of Texas at Arlington; devoted to his profession, he served as a
13 director of both the Arlington Bar Association and the Tarrant
14 County Family Law Bar Association, and he was a Fellow and Life
15 Member of the Texas Bar Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, This dedicated public servant was first elected to
17 the Texas House in 1990, and his tenure in the state legislature
18 ultimately spanned 16 years, from 1991 to 2007; drawing on his
19 professional experience, he distinguished himself as chair of the
20 Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee for four of his eight
21 terms in office; his tireless efforts to reform the juvenile
22 justice system led to sweeping changes that were emulated across
23 the country, and he was instrumental in rewriting the Texas Family
24 Code; moreover, he championed the rise of UTA as a Tier 1

1 institution, helping the university to attain support for
2 development, research, and building construction; his leadership
3 also benefited the Governor's Juvenile Justice Task Force and the
4 Attorney General's School Violence Task Force, as well as the
5 Tarrant County Civil Justice Task Force; known for his
6 collegiality, intellect, and problem-solving ability, he achieved
7 positive results through a strong work ethic and quiet
8 determination; and

9 WHEREAS, After leaving office, Mr. Goodman continued to
10 advocate for children, and he was a longtime member of the Greater
11 Arlington Chamber of Commerce, which presented him with its 2016
12 Star Award; his other honors included being named Legislator of the
13 Year five times by Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates for
14 Children, and he also received that honor from the National Child
15 Support Enforcement Association and the Texas Council of Child
16 Welfare Boards; in addition, he was selected as one of the state's
17 Ten Best Legislators by *Texas Monthly* and as an Honorary
18 Distinguished Alumni by UTA; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Goodman and his wife, Gloria, shared a
20 fulfilling marriage of 38 years; he took great pride in his three
21 children, Brian, Lauri, and Christie, and in his four
22 grandchildren, Kaleigh, Abbie, Jordan, and Jackson; in his free
23 time, he enjoyed cheering on the TCU football team, traveling,
24 researching history, and telling stories, but nothing gave him more
25 pleasure than helping others; his wonderful sense of humor and
26 contagious laugh brightened the days of innumerable people; and

27 WHEREAS, Through his commitment to benefiting children and

1 families, Toby Goodman made a lasting, positive difference in the
2 lives of countless Texans, and although he will be deeply missed by
3 those he left behind, his contributions will continue to resonate
4 in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
6 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
7 the Honorable Toby Ray Goodman and extend sincere condolences to
8 all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Toby
12 Goodman.