87R6631 JGH-D

By:  Clardy H.R. No. 164

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, An exemplary life devoted to public service drew to a close with the death of former Nacogdoches County judge Ocie Lee Westmoreland on August 15, 2020, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Descended from one of the original 300 families who came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin, Ocie Westmoreland was born in Nacogdoches on November 14, 1930, to Charlie and Bessie Westmoreland and grew up with eight siblings, Oliver, Charles, Robert, Ray, Roy, Jimmy, Bessie, and Ann; he took to the road at the age of 14 and worked odd jobs, and he later graduated from Massey Business College and attended Stephen F. Austin State University; answering his nation's call to duty, he served with the Texas National Guard; and

WHEREAS, After working for a time as a long-haul trucker, Mr. Westmoreland embarked on a career in public service, serving as a firefighter and as a dispatcher for the Department of Public Safety and the sheriff's department; he went on to contribute to his community as a justice of the peace for 16 years, and he served twice as Nacogdoches County judge, from 1979 to 1986 and again from 1991 to 1998; during his tenure, he played a leading role in the creation of the Nacogdoches County Court at Law as well as in the planning and development of Lake Naconiche; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westmoreland was also active as a Shriner and a Mason, holding the ranks of Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason for more than half a century, and he was a longtime member of Landmark Baptist Church; an avid sportsman when he was younger, he fished every river in East Texas, and throughout his life, he loved to play forty-two and dominoes; in retirement, he enjoyed setting the world to rights with his friends at the Country Kitchen Café; and

WHEREAS, Above all, Mr. Westmoreland delighted in the time he spent at Hickory Hill Farm with his loved ones; he married Joyce Marie Barnes in 1960, creating a blended family with their sons, Terry, Richard, Randal, and David, and later adding a daughter of their own, Angela; with the passing years, he was further blessed with 15 grandchildren, Joe, Brent, Mitchell, Tyler, Logan, Grant, Forrest, Jamie, Madeline, Kesli, Kelli, Lauren, Kallie, Kori, and the late Katy Westmoreland, and 11 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man and an admired civic leader, Ocie Westmoreland lived a rich and purposeful life dedicated to making his community a better place, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ocie Lee Westmoreland and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and friends; 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 Ocie Lee Westmoreland.