87R12058 CW-D

By:  Rogers H.R. No. 215

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends of Richard L. Ball of Mineral Wells, who passed away on February 16, 2021, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Palo Pinto County, Richard Ball was born in Gordon on November 6, 1939, to Ira and Alma Ball; he grew up with four siblings, Ailene, Bill, Jerry, and Jim, and graduated from Gordon High School; in 1959, at the age of 19, he began working as a route driver helper for Wes-Tex Vending, and he rose through the ranks of the company to become general manager in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ball married the former Connie Leeper on September 26, 1980, and the couple shared a rewarding union that spanned four decades; taking on more responsibility with Wes-Tex Vending, Mr. Ball was named president in 1984, and he and his wife purchased the company in 1988, enjoying great success; he served as the owner of Wes-Tex until 2016; he also founded Twin City Coffee Service in Bryan-College Station, and he formed a partnership to buy the Parker Plaza Shopping Center in Weatherford; in 2001, Mr. and Mrs. Ball became the property's sole owners; and

WHEREAS, Widely respected in his community, Mr. Ball was president of the Mineral Wells Industrial Foundation and the Palo Pinto Area Foundation of the Palo Pinto General Hospital at the time of his passing; appointed by Governors Rick Perry and Greg Abbott, he served two terms as a Brazos River Authority board director; he was a former president of the Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, which presented him with a lifetime achievement award, and he was honored as the *Mineral Wells Index* Man of the Year; moreover, he presided over the Texas Merchandise Vending Association board and received the TMVA Icon Award; and

WHEREAS, Above all else, Mr. Ball cherished time spent with his loved ones; he was the devoted father of four children, Tonja, Terri, Tim, and LeAnn, and he took great pride in his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren; a man of faith, he was a valued congregant of Southside Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, While the death of Richard L. Ball brings great sadness to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that will long be treasured by all those who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Richard L. Ball 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 Richard Ball.