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By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 636

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A full and generous life has drawn to a close with the death of the Honorable Donald W. Bankston of Richmond on March 24, 2021, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on September 24, 1947, Don Bankston graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, and he attended the University of North Texas before earning his law degree at the University of Houston; after beginning his legal career in Houston, he moved his family and his practice to Richmond in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bankston worked as an assistant district attorney for Fort Bend County for three years, but for much of his 46-year career, he was a respected criminal defense attorney who handled many high profile cases, including major drug and capital murder trials; he was known for his strong stands on behalf of constitutional rights and against police brutality and prosecutorial overreach, and he was a member of the Fort Bend County Criminal Defense Bar Association and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; since October 2019, he had served as associate justice on the 268th District Court; and

WHEREAS, A champion for his political ideals, Mr. Bankston played a leading role in organizing the local Democratic Party in the 1990s, and he chaired the Fort Bend County Democratic Party and served as a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee; he was admired by his peers and adversaries alike as a dedicated activist, negotiator, and mentor to many younger public servants; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bankston and his wife, Susan DuQuesnay Bankston, shared a loving relationship for 50 years; he took great pride in his three sons, Bryan, Mark, and the late Chip Bankston, his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and his grandson, Benjamin; and

WHEREAS, Don Bankston was a devoted family man, an engaged citizen, and a skilled attorney and jurist, and his commitment to public service and to equal justice 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 life of Donald W. Bankston and extend sincere condolences to his family and to his many 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 Don Bankston.