H.R. No. 1815

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life of meaningful service drew to a close with the death of former state representative Tony James Goolsby of Dallas on September 4, 2020, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Born on November 9, 1933, Tony Goolsby was raised by Thelma and Herman Ross in Longview, and he grew up with two siblings, Eddie and Marsha; answering his nation's call to duty, he served in the U.S. Army, and he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from the University of North Texas, where he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity; he worked as a teacher, coach, principal, and pharmaceutical sales representative until he started an insurance agency in the 1980s, running it for more than two decades; he served as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Dallas, as head of political actions for the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas, and as a board member of Pavillion Bank; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. Goolsby was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, and he served the citizens of North Dallas and Richardson for 20 years; a leader in the house, he was a strong supporter of efforts to protect victims of sexual assault, extend the reach of Amber Alerts, protect consumers from unwanted solicitations, make identity theft a state crime, cut taxes on small businesses, and make higher education more accessible, including allowing senior citizens to audit college courses at no cost; known for signing everything in a shade of ink that came to be known as "Goolsby green," he served as chair of the House Administration Committee and as vice chair of the Higher Education Committee; dedicated to making sure the house ran smoothly and that everyone was treated fairly, he made many friends during his tenure, and a number of items from his personal collection remain on view at the Legislative Reference Library; and

WHEREAS, Representative Goolsby's many honors over the course of his career included recognition and awards from the Dallas Police Association, North Texas State University, Longview High School, the Texas Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Realtors Association, and the Texas Pediatric Society; and

WHEREAS, Following his service in the legislature, Mr. Goolsby enjoyed a successful career as a lobbyist; he remained close to his former legislative staffers, often sharing a meal to offer advice and discuss the latest Capitol news, and he maintained a warm friendship with former speaker of the house Pete Laney until the end of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Goolsby was a member of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church for more than a half century, and he was serving as an usher one Sunday morning when he met Toppy Tannery, who was late for church; they were married in 1971 and shared a loving relationship that spanned nearly five decades; they delighted in traveling together to national parks, taking riverboat cruises in Europe, spending Thanksgiving in Hawaii, and visiting their granddaughters in California; in 2001, they dedicated the Goolsby Chapel at the University of North Texas, and they also established the Toppy and Tony Goolsby Family Trust Rangerette Scholarship at Kilgore College; and

WHEREAS, Witty, warm, and generous, Tony Goolsby was a devoted family man and a distinguished public servant, and his loss is keenly felt by the numerous friends he made through the years and by the countless people in Texas whose lives were made better by his many achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Tony James Goolsby and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Toppy Goolsby; to his children, Mellie Mathis and her husband, Chris Duncan, Cherrie Wysong and her husband, Jay, and Brooke Welch and her husband, Sean; to his grandchildren, Delaney and Riley Welch; to his sister, Marsha Ross; and to his other relatives and 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 Tony Goolsby.

Smithee

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1815 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 29, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House