

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 97

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Judge Joe Spurlock II, former state representative,  
2 trial and appellate court justice, and professor of law at Texas A&M  
3 University, passed away on June 9, 2020, at the age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on January 29, 1938, Joe Spurlock was the son of  
5 Joe C. Spurlock, who served as a judge, and Clarice Spurlock, the  
6 first woman elected to the Fort Worth City Council; he grew up with  
7 the companionship of two sisters, Roma Sue and Kay, and a brother,  
8 Dean; after earning an economics degree from Texas A&M University,  
9 he went on to receive his juris doctor degree from The University of  
10 Texas at Austin and his master of laws degree from the University of  
11 Virginia; he also served with the United States Army in Vietnam and  
12 was awarded the Bronze Star Medal; and

13           WHEREAS, Joe Spurlock enjoyed a highly successful career in  
14 public service and academia; during his tenure on the bench, he  
15 presided over the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth and  
16 distinguished himself as a Tarrant County trial court judge, and he  
17 also worked as an assistant criminal district attorney; moreover,  
18 he was a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1971 to  
19 1977; over the course of his three terms in office, he served on an  
20 array of committees, including those on state finance, oil and gas  
21 regulation, and government affairs and efficiency, and he was  
22 appointed vice chair of the rules and criminal jurisprudence  
23 committees, among other important roles; and

24           WHEREAS, Judge Spurlock became a founding faculty member of

1 the Texas A&M School of Law, and numerous students benefited from  
2 his expertise and advice through the years; he was passionate about  
3 the teaching of law, and he strove to provide aspiring attorneys  
4 with a comprehensive education while also instilling in them traits  
5 such as compassion and determination; legal reform was another of  
6 his interests, and his efforts in that area included leading the  
7 Asian Judicial Institute; affectionately called "Father Texas" at  
8 the school of law, he was known for his signature cowboy hat and  
9 boots; and

10 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Judge Spurlock drew strength  
11 from the rewarding marriage that he shared with his wife, Cheri  
12 Spurlock; he was the proud father of five children, Allison,  
13 Kathryn, Suzanne, Nicole, and the late Joe Spurlock III, and he was  
14 further blessed with eight grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Spurlock was an esteemed jurist, legislator, and  
16 educator, a beloved mentor, and a dear friend and colleague, and  
17 through the countless lives he touched in these roles, he has left  
18 behind a legacy that will long endure; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Judge Joe  
21 Spurlock II and extend deepest sympathy to his relatives and  
22 friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Joe  
26 Spurlock II.