

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 164

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

13 WHEREAS, After working for a time as a long-haul trucker,
14 Mr. Westmoreland embarked on a career in public service, serving as
15 a firefighter and as a dispatcher for the Department of Public
16 Safety and the sheriff's department; he went on to contribute to his
17 community as a justice of the peace for 16 years, and he served
18 twice as Nacogdoches County judge, from 1979 to 1986 and again from
19 1991 to 1998; during his tenure, he played a leading role in the
20 creation of the Nacogdoches County Court at Law as well as in the
21 planning and development of Lake Naconiche; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Westmoreland was also active as a Shriner and a
23 Mason, holding the ranks of Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason for
24 more than half a century, and he was a longtime member of Landmark

1 Baptist Church; an avid sportsman when he was younger, he fished
2 every river in East Texas, and throughout his life, he loved to play
3 forty-two and dominoes; in retirement, he enjoyed setting the world
4 to rights with his friends at the Country Kitchen Café; and

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ocie Lee
20 Westmoreland and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and
21 friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ocie Lee
25 Westmoreland.