

By: Meza

H.R. No. 299

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of former Texas state representative
2 John Robert Wright Jr. on December 20, 2020, at the age of 92
3 concluded a remarkable life of service to the Grand Prairie
4 community and to the State of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on December 20, 1928, to John Robert Wright and
6 Anne Taylor Wright, John Robert Wright Jr. was raised in Dallas with
7 the companionship of his two siblings, Merton and Nell; he
8 graduated from Crozier Tech High School in 1947 and from North Texas
9 State College in 1951, then spent a summer playing minor league
10 baseball before beginning studies at The University of Texas at
11 Austin School of Law; he was admitted to the bar in 1954 and began
12 his career as a lawyer in Grand Prairie; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Wright's interest in politics led him to
14 successfully run for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in
15 1964; over the course of three terms at the State Capitol, from 1965
16 until 1971, he authored and passed a number of bills, including
17 legislation related to dyslexia testing and education that was
18 inspired by his nephew's efforts to cope with a learning disorder;
19 moreover, he was strongly opposed to the imposition of a sales tax
20 on groceries, and he was integral to securing funding and
21 authorization for the development of Mountain Creek Lake Park in
22 Grand Prairie; among numerous committee assignments, he served as
23 chair of the Motor Traffic and Interstate Cooperation Committees,
24 and during his freshman session, he was named the 1965 Public

1 Servant of the Year by the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Wright maintained his law practice in Grand
3 Prairie for nearly 60 years before retiring in 2013; among the
4 highlights of his career was his appearance before the United
5 States Supreme Court in the 1970s, and he later represented clients
6 in federal criminal cases with significant success; moreover, he
7 served as legal counsel for multiple North Texas school districts,
8 and he established the Grand Prairie ISD Education Foundation in
9 1970, one of the first organizations of its kind in the state; in
10 addition to being a prominent attorney, he was a 33rd degree Master
11 Mason, and his interest in sports encompassed playing and coaching
12 baseball and softball, spending many happy hours on the golf
13 course, and cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and Mavericks and the
14 Texas Rangers; in recognition of his many civic contributions, he
15 was honored by the Grand Prairie Chamber as Citizen of the Year in
16 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father, Mr. Wright shared more
18 than 40 years of marriage with Topsy Roberson Wright, and the couple
19 raised two children, Martha and John; after Mrs. Wright passed away
20 in 1998, he was fortunate enough to find love again with Dr. Eleanor
21 Cherryholmes, whom he met at West Fork Presbyterian Church; they
22 settled in Denton after marrying, and during retirement Mr. Wright
23 enjoyed playing bridge, making new friends, and entertaining others
24 with his gifts as a storyteller; and

25 WHEREAS, John Wright will be remembered as a force for
26 positive change in his community, as well as a tenacious advocate
27 for the legal clients he served, and he leaves behind a legacy that

1 will long be cherished by those who held him dear; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable John
5 Robert Wright Jr. and extend deepest condolences to the members of
6 his family: to his wife, Dr. Eleanor Cherryholmes; to his sister,
7 Nell Council; to his children, Martha Claire Wright and John Robert
8 Wright III and his wife, Janet Smith; to his grandchildren, Taylor,
9 Jacob, and Kathleen Post, Lauren Greil and her husband, John,
10 Hilary Donadio and her husband, Dan, and Chloe Wright and her
11 partner, Loch Roberts; to his great-granddaughter, Lucy Greil; and
12 to his other relatives, his friends, and his former colleagues;
13 and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John Robert
17 Wright Jr.