

By: Bowers

H.R. No. 517

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of a legendary athletic director drew to a  
2 close with the passing of Homer B. Johnson of Garland on March 17,  
3 2021, at the age of 93; and

4           WHEREAS, Homer Johnson was born on November 28, 1927, to  
5 J. M. and Ruby Johnson, and grew up in Garland with a sister, Nancy;  
6 he graduated in 1945 from Garland High School, where he was a member  
7 of the football, basketball, and baseball teams, and he went on to  
8 play football at Texas A&M University and the University of North  
9 Texas; he received a bachelor's degree from UNT and a master's  
10 degree from East Texas State University; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1948, Mr. Johnson embarked on his career in  
12 school athletics when he became an assistant football coach at his  
13 high school alma mater; he took a leave of absence in 1950 to serve  
14 for three years with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and then  
15 returned to the sidelines at Garland High, ultimately serving as  
16 the team's head coach in the late 1950s and early 1960s; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was appointed in 1963 as the inaugural  
18 athletic director for the Garland Independent School District;  
19 among his many accomplishments, he launched the first girls'  
20 athletic program in Garland and oversaw the district's other  
21 efforts to expand access to sports activities following passage of  
22 Title IX in 1972; moreover, he managed school athletics during an  
23 era of rapid growth that included the opening of numerous high  
24 schools and other campuses; he retired in 2016, drawing to a close

1 an exceptional career with Garland ISD that encompassed nearly  
2 seven decades; and

3 WHEREAS, In recognition of his exemplary achievements,  
4 Mr. Johnson was inducted into the Garland Sports Hall of Fame, the  
5 Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and the Halls of Honor of the Texas High  
6 School Coaches Association and the Texas High School Athletic  
7 Directors Association; in 1978, Garland Memorial Stadium was  
8 renamed Homer B. Johnson Stadium in his honor; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the decades, Mr. Johnson enjoyed the love  
10 and support of his wife, Billie, and the couple shared a rewarding  
11 union that spanned 57 years before her passing in 2008; he took  
12 great pride in his son, Joc, in his granddaughter, Andrea, and in  
13 his great-grandsons, Josh, Keyshawn, and Kobe; and

14 WHEREAS, A highly respected role model and mentor, Homer  
15 Johnson made a positive difference in the lives of countless  
16 students, coaches, and educators, and he leaves behind a legacy  
17 that will resonate in the Garland community for years to come; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Homer B. Johnson and  
21 extend heartfelt sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it  
22 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 Homer  
26 Johnson.