

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Honorable Steve Ellis, who retired as judge of the 35th Judicial District Court for Brown and Mills Counties on December 31, 2020, after an exemplary career that spanned nearly a quarter century; and

WHEREAS, Steve Ellis was first elected judge of the 35th Judicial District Court in 1996; known for his fairness and integrity, he presided over thousands of criminal and civil cases and hundreds of jury trials, and his decisions were rarely reversed on appeal; his many accomplishments included implementing the Children and Divorce, Safe Exchange, and Mediation Programs at the Family Services Center in Brownwood and helping to create the Indigent Defense and Pretrial Services office and CASA in the Heart of Texas; formerly, while serving as district attorney, he played a vital role in establishing Brown County Crime Stoppers; and

WHEREAS, Widely respected, Judge Ellis belongs to the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas and the American Judicature Society; he was recognized by *Texas Lawyer* for his outstanding service on the bench, and he received a commendation from the State Bar of Texas president; within his community, he has been honored as Professional of the Year and Outstanding Man of the Year by the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce; he holds a juris doctor degree from the Baylor University Law School and is a graduate of the Texas College for Judicial Studies; and

WHEREAS, In his personal life, Judge Ellis treasures time spent with his wife, Mary Jane, and their children and

grandchildren; he is a deacon of First Baptist Church Brownwood, and retirement is affording him the opportunity to more fully devote himself to his work as a cattle rancher; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating a commitment to the highest ideals of public service, Judge Steve Ellis greatly benefited the citizens of Brown and Mills Counties, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a job well done as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby congratulate the Honorable Steve Ellis on his retirement as judge of the 35th Judicial District Court and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future.

Buckingham

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 2, 2021.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate