

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 245

In Memory
of
Hugh Parmer

WHEREAS, The passing of the Honorable Hugh Quay Parmer of Fort Worth on May 27, 2020, at the age of 80, concluded a remarkable life of public service that included contributions as a state legislator, a mayor, and a federal government official; and

WHEREAS, A Fort Worth native, Hugh Parmer was born to the Reverend Quay Parmer and Mary Louise Parmer on August 3, 1939; he graduated from Yale University and earned a master's degree from The University of Texas at Arlington; elected to the Texas Legislature when he was just 23 years old, he was at that time the youngest member to serve in the house of representatives; he went on to hold positions with the Peace Corps and the U.S. Department of Commerce during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson; returning to Fort Worth, he joined the city council in 1975, and after winning election as mayor two years later, he focused on advancing accountability, transparency, and the diversity of the local court system; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Mr. Parmer won a seat in the Texas Senate, and during the eight years that he was a member of that chamber, he secured passage of legislation that provided hunger relief for hundreds of thousands of Texans, as well as bills that required health insurers to cover Alzheimer's disease care and mammograms; moreover, he chaired the intergovernmental relations committee for two sessions and served as president pro tempore during the 71st Legislature; during this period, he also studied law on his own, and he passed the bar in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Called to federal service again in 1998, Mr. Parmer was appointed by President Bill Clinton to head of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development; in that capacity, he managed disaster relief efforts in more than 80 countries, from war-torn Kosovo and famine-plagued Ethiopia to Caribbean nations ravaged by hurricanes; he then relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and spent six years as president of the American Refugee Committee; in retirement, he returned to Texas and became an adjunct professor, inspiring students at a number of universities; in all his endeavors, he was supported by his wife, Evelyn, with whom he shared 55 years of marriage, and he took great pride in his children, Travis and Elizabeth, and in his granddaughter, Claire; and

WHEREAS, Hugh Parmer devoted his career to improving the lives of people across Texas and around the world, and although he is deeply missed, his exceptional achievements will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Hugh Quay Parmer and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Hugh Parmer.

Powell, Nelson
Whitmire, Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 13, 2021.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate