

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 25

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a distinguished jurist drew to a close
2 with the passing of the Honorable Joe D. Clayton of Tyler on
3 July 14, 2023, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Melvin and Clementine Clayton, Joe
5 Clayton was born in Bonham on November 21, 1938, and he grew up with
6 the companionship of three brothers, Bernard, Gene, and John; in
7 1956, he graduated from Tullia High School, and he went on to receive
8 his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and his
9 juris doctor degree from the UT School of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Clayton worked as a partner and senior partner
11 in various law firms in Tyler and Fredericksburg prior to embarking
12 on his esteemed career in the judiciary, over the course of which he
13 served as judge of the 241st District Court, the Smith County
14 Court-at-Law in Tyler, and the Bullard Municipal Court, as well as a
15 senior state district judge; furthermore, he held leadership roles
16 within a number of professional organizations, including the Texas
17 Center for the Judiciary, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Bar
18 Foundation; and

19 WHEREAS, Active in his community, Judge Clayton gave
20 generously of his time and talents to numerous civic groups, such as
21 the Bowie Chamber of Commerce, the East Texas Estate Planning
22 Council, and the Tyler-Rose City Kiwanis Club; in his leisure
23 hours, he enjoyed hunting and fishing; and

24 WHEREAS, Above all else, Judge Clayton was devoted to his

1 loved ones; he shared a rewarding marriage with his wife, Jan, that
2 spanned five and a half decades until her passing in 2019, and he
3 took great pride in their three children, Joe, James, and
4 Catherine; with the passing years, he had the pleasure of welcoming
5 into his treasured family three granddaughters, Ashley, Caroline,
6 and Clementene; in all his endeavors, Judge Clayton was sustained
7 by his strong faith, and he was a valued member of First
8 Presbyterian Church in Tyler; and

9 WHEREAS, Joe Clayton earned the respect and admiration of all
10 who knew him, and he leaves behind a record of service that his
11 family and friends can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd
13 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Judge
14 Joe D. Clayton and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his
15 passing; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
18 day, it do so in memory of Joe Clayton.