

By: Leo Wilson

H.R. No. 27

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of John Wilbur Franklin of Galveston on
3 July 8, 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Billy Franklin and Ethel Jones, John
5 Franklin was born in Galveston on May 13, 1944, and he grew up with
6 the companionship of a sister, Jean; he graduated from Central High
7 School in 1962; and

8 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Franklin
9 served as a U.S. Merchant Marine, and he was a member of the
10 Seafarers International Union; he went on to work at local funeral
11 homes for a number of years, and in 1972, he became a deck hand for
12 the Texas Department of Transportation Galveston Ferry System; he
13 held that position for more than three decades before retiring in
14 2009; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin and his wife, Mary, shared many happy
16 years together until her passing; he took great pride in his three
17 children, Rhonda, John, and the late Robert L. Johnson Jr., who
18 preceded his father in death, and he was a caring stepfather to his
19 wife's son, Anthony; over the years, he had the pleasure of
20 welcoming into his family 6 grandchildren, Ricky, Ashley, Edward,
21 Crystal, Bria, and Aliyah, as well as 25 great-grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, During his leisure hours, Mr. Franklin enjoyed
23 cooking, landscaping, gardening, and working on home improvement
24 projects, and he was known for helping others in his community with

1 scrapping and hauling; above all else, he treasured time spent with
2 family and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known John Franklin
4 will remember the way he touched their lives with his warmth and
5 delightful sense of humor, and he will forever hold a cherished
6 place in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
8 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
9 of John Wilbur Franklin and extend sincere condolences to his loved
10 ones; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of John
14 Franklin.