

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 54

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 Pastor David Orlo Dykes of Tyler on
3 July 2, 2025, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, David Dykes was born in Ruston, Louisiana, on
5 January 16, 1953, and he grew up in southern Alabama; he devoted
6 himself to his Christian faith at an early age and began preaching
7 in 1970 at the age of 17; he attended Samford University before
8 earning a master's degree in divinity and a doctorate of ministry
9 from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and he later
10 completed a postdoctoral study at the University of Cambridge; and

11 WHEREAS, Pastor Dykes shared a fulfilling 51-year union with
12 his wife, Cindy; he took great pride in his two daughters, Jennifer
13 and Laura Grace, and with the passing years, he had the pleasure of
14 seeing his treasured family grow to include five grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout his early career, Pastor Dykes served as
16 senior pastor of three Alabama churches, Tallaweka Baptist Church,
17 First Baptist Church Oneonta, and Gardendale First Baptist Church;
18 in 1991, he was named senior pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in
19 Tyler, and over the course of his distinguished three-decade
20 tenure, membership grew from 9,000 to 17,000; along the way, he led
21 mission teams to more than 30 countries, trained pastors around the
22 world, and published over 20 books; after retiring from Green Acres
23 Baptist Church in 2021, he served the congregation as pastor
24 emeritus; and

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of his many commendable efforts,
2 Pastor Dykes was awarded the M. E. Dodd Denominational Service
3 Award by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2008, the Alumnus of the
4 Year Award by The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2021,
5 and the inaugural David Dykes Servant Leadership Award by East
6 Texas Baptist University in 2024, and he received an honorary
7 doctorate from East Texas Baptist University; in his leisure hours,
8 he enjoyed playing golf and traveling the world, and he led more
9 than two dozen tours through Israel with his wife; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply dedicated to his family, his faith, and his
11 community, David Dykes earned the lasting respect and admiration of
12 all who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature, 1st
14 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Pastor David Orlo
15 Dykes and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:
16 to his wife, Cindy Dykes; to his daughters, Jennifer Holman and
17 Laura Grace Dykes; to his sons-in-law, Jason Holman and Joseph
18 Provencher; to his grandchildren, Lizzie, Caroline, and Grant
19 Holman, Ada Liner, and Samuel Provencher; to his siblings, Judy
20 Kapa and Daniel Dykes; and to his other relatives and friends; and,
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
24 day, it do so in memory of David Dykes.