

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 58

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Dr. Jim B. Elam of Longview on July 13, 2025, at the age
3 of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Bryan and Allene Elam, Jim Elam was born
5 in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, on November 4, 1935, and he grew up with
6 the companionship of his sister, Betty Sue; he felt the call to the
7 ministry at the age of 15 and began preaching at a small church near
8 his hometown; in 1957, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and he was
9 stationed in Germany and also served as director of the Army's
10 American Youth Association; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Elam earned a bachelor's degree from Texas
12 Christian University in 1961, and he later received a master of
13 divinity degree and a doctorate of ministry from Brite Divinity
14 School; ordained in 1964 at First Christian Church of Odessa, he
15 served numerous congregations over the course of a distinguished
16 ministerial career, including First Christian Church in Sulphur
17 Springs and First Christian Church in Duncanville; he went on to
18 lead First Christian Church in Longview as senior minister for 25
19 years, and following his retirement in 2001, he acted as interim
20 senior minister for several churches; and

21 WHEREAS, Passionate about community service, Dr. Elam helped
22 establish the Palmer Drug Abuse Program, and he was instrumental in
23 the formation of a group affectionately known as the "Good Guys" who
24 played a pivotal role in launching a number of initiatives, such as

1 Habitat for Humanity in Longview, a chaplaincy program at Good
2 Shepherd Medical Center, and the East Texas Literacy Council;
3 moreover, he gave generously of his time and talents to various
4 other boards and organizations, including the Salvation Army, the
5 Kidney Foundation of Longview, and the Gregg County Juvenile Task
6 Force; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Elam shared a rewarding marriage of 61 years
8 with his wife, Mary Alice; he took great pride in his four children,
9 Matthew, Beth, Molly, and Margaret, and with the passing years, he
10 had the pleasure of seeing his treasured family grow to include
11 eight grandchildren, Adelynn, Sam, Elanor, Jack, Thomas, Oliver,
12 Benjamin, and Nathan; in his free time, he enjoyed following TCU
13 sports; and

14 WHEREAS, Deeply dedicated to his faith, his family, and his
15 community, Jim Elam earned the lasting respect and admiration of
16 all who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature, 1st
18 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Jim B. Elam
19 and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be
20 it further

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