

By: Curry

H.R. No. 136

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close on May 3,  
2 2024, with the passing of Clyde Vance Dunnam of Waco at the age of  
3 94; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Waco on November 6, 1929, Vance Dunnam grew  
5 up in Speegleville and graduated from Waco High School; he earned  
6 his bachelor's degree from Baylor University in 1951 and his juris  
7 doctor degree from Baylor Law School the following year; and

8           WHEREAS, After obtaining his admission to the bar and a short  
9 stint working for a Houston oil company, Mr. Dunnam joined his  
10 father and brother at Dunnam & Dunnam, LLP, where he worked for  
11 seven decades; over the course of his career, he earned a reputation  
12 as one of the most skilled and successful trial attorneys in Central  
13 Texas; he served as a mentor to hundreds of colleagues and further  
14 contributed to his professional community as president of the  
15 McLennan County Junior Bar Association and the Waco-McLennan County  
16 Bar Association; through the years, he had the pleasure of  
17 practicing with a number of family members, and he worked up until  
18 the last weeks of his life; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1952, Mr. Dunnam married Vicki Hohertz, and they  
20 shared in the joy of raising three children, Vance, Cathy, and Jim;  
21 after his wife's death in 1995, he found love again with Merrilee  
22 Lafferty Harmon, whom he wed in 1997; with the passing years, he  
23 delighted in watching his cherished family grow to include numerous  
24 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

1           WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Dunnam held leadership  
2 positions in several organizations, including the Scottish Rite,  
3 the York Rite, and the Karem Shrine as well as the Waco Jaycees and  
4 the Knights of Pythias; he was also a man of faith and a lifelong  
5 member of the Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday school for  
6 many years; in his leisure time, he enjoyed cattle and hay ranching,  
7 sailing, riding his motorcycle, fly-fishing, beekeeping, hunting,  
8 and any time that he could spend with his children and  
9 grandchildren; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Dunnam especially took pride in the history and  
11 success of Dunnam & Dunnam, LLP, where he worked for most of his  
12 career, even up until a few weeks before his passing, and he truly  
13 loved the fact that he successfully instilled the same pride in his  
14 children and grandchildren; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Dunnam could not have been more loyal to his  
16 lifelong friends and employees, no matter their politics, race, or  
17 religion; in addition, he also worked tirelessly to mend all fences  
18 with those who might have become estranged; and

19           WHEREAS, Although Vance Dunnam is deeply missed, memories of  
20 his wisdom, his sense of humor, and his generosity remain to comfort  
21 and inspire those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Clyde Vance Dunnam and  
24 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
25 Merrilee L. Harmon; to his children, Vance Dunnam Jr. and his wife,  
26 Irma, Cathy Dunnam Pleitz and her husband, Dan, and Jim Dunnam and  
27 his wife, Michelle; to his grandchildren, Vanessa, Jennifer,

1 Stephanie, Joshua, Jacob, Jordan, Lauren, Mason, and Rachel; to his  
2 12 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends;  
3 and, be it further

4         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Vance  
7 Dunnam.