

By: Harless

H.R. No. 207

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Elwood Mitchell retired as captain investigator for  
2 the Harris County District Attorney's Office on December 27, 2024,  
3 drawing to a close an exemplary career in law enforcement that  
4 spanned more than four decades; and

5           WHEREAS, In 2017, Woody Mitchell joined the Harris County  
6 Attorney's Office as a chief investigator, and four years later, he  
7 was appointed to captain investigator with the DA's office; his  
8 duties included overseeing the planning, forecasting, and  
9 strategic direction of the Investigative Bureau; a licensed master  
10 peace officer and law enforcement instructor, he supervised a team  
11 of investigators, providing leadership across multiple specialized  
12 divisions such as the Civil Rights and Public Corruption Division,  
13 Digital Forensics Division, and Fugitive Apprehension Unit; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell spent his entire 41-year career in law  
15 enforcement with Harris County, beginning as a deputy with the  
16 Precinct 5 Constable's Office in 1983; two years later, he joined  
17 the Harris County Sheriff's Office, working as a jailer and deputy  
18 until 1997; he then accepted an investigator position with the  
19 county attorney's office and was assigned to the Children's  
20 Protective Division at the Texas Department of Family and  
21 Protective Services and the Harris County Hospital District; and

22           WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Mitchell was appointed assistant chief  
23 with the Precinct 4 Constable's Office; in that role, he was  
24 responsible for supervising patrol operations for the jurisdiction

1 as well as overseeing 130 subdivision contract programs and school  
2 police programs with the Cypress-Fairbanks and Tomball Independent  
3 School Districts; he was also assigned to oversee the Civil, Writs,  
4 and Warrant Divisions of the department with responsibility over  
5 investigations in the High-Tech Crime Unit, Domestic Violence Unit,  
6 and Game Room Task Force; moreover, he was directly involved in  
7 leading-edge components of computer forensic technology in law  
8 enforcement and had personnel assigned to the FBI's Greater Houston  
9 Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory; and

10 WHEREAS, During his 14-year tenure as assistant chief,  
11 Mr. Mitchell served with distinction and was recognized for his  
12 leadership and strong relationship with subordinates and staff; his  
13 thoroughness and attention to detail, though sometimes taken to  
14 excess, was recognized as a valuable asset to the department; he  
15 commanded a large contingent of the largest constable's office in  
16 Texas and worked honestly to maintain the harmony and respect of  
17 those under him; regardless of the challenges confronting him, he  
18 maintained his focus on the safety and well-being of his personnel  
19 and the public he was committed to serve; following his tenure with  
20 the department, he served as a major with the Harris County  
21 Sheriff's Office for two years, and, as a member of its Criminal  
22 Investigations Bureau, he was responsible for the integrity of the  
23 office's investigative operations; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell attended Sam Houston State University,  
25 majoring in criminal justice, and is a graduate of the Texas  
26 Constables Leadership Command College and Texas Constables  
27 Leadership Institute programs of the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement

1 Management Institute of Texas; he successfully completed the FBI  
2 Law Enforcement Executive Development Series, and he is also a  
3 graduate of the Leadership North Houston program of the Houston  
4 Northwest Chamber of Commerce, where he served as a member of the  
5 board of directors; in addition, he has served on the board of  
6 directors of Cypress Creek EMS; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished career with  
8 Harris County law enforcement agencies, Woody Mitchell was  
9 recognized with numerous awards and greatly benefited his fellow  
10 citizens through his skill, professionalism, and longstanding  
11 commitment to public service, and he may reflect with pride on his  
12 outstanding contributions to his profession and to those he  
13 influenced along the way; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Elwood Mitchell on his retirement  
16 as captain investigator in the Harris County District Attorney's  
17 Office and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Chief Mitchell as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.