

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 Centilli of Waxahachie on  
3 November 7, 2024, at the age of 95; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of F. L. and Mary Centilli, "J. D." Centilli  
5 was born in Del Rio on October 31, 1929, and he grew up with the  
6 companionship of six siblings, Florine, Bill, Junior, Frank,  
7 Gerald, and Pat; a talented athlete, he ran track and played  
8 football and basketball in high school, and while attending Texas  
9 A&M University, he was a member of the Aggie football team; after  
10 earning his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1952, he  
11 served for two years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, receiving  
12 the National Defense Service Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, Following his tenure in the military, Mr. Centilli  
14 returned to Texas A&M to obtain his master's degree in education;  
15 while there, he met the love of his life, the former Pauline  
16 Malazzo; the couple married on June 18, 1960, and they became the  
17 proud parents of three sons, Doug, Jeff, and Greg; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Centilli enjoyed a long and rewarding career as  
19 an educator, coach, and administrator; as a high school football  
20 coach, his teams won multiple district championships and advanced  
21 to the state finals; he ultimately became the assistant  
22 superintendent of schools for the Waxahachie Independent School  
23 District, where he retired in 1991; among his numerous accolades,  
24 he was inducted into the Coastal Bend Coaches Association Hall of

1 Honor in 2000; and

2 WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Centilli was a member  
3 of the Knights of Columbus and president of the Waxahachie Lions  
4 Club; he took pleasure in spending time on his land, tending to his  
5 peach orchard, welding, and woodworking; a man of faith, he was a  
6 longtime parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church; and

7 WHEREAS, While the passing of J. D. Centilli brings great  
8 sadness to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that  
9 will long be treasured by all those who held him dear; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of John Centilli and that  
13 sincere condolences be extended to the members of his family: to his  
14 wife, Pauline Centilli; to his sons, Doug, Jeff, and Greg Centilli;  
15 to his brother, Pat Centilli, and his wife, Martha; and to his other  
16 relatives and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of J. D.  
20 Centilli.

Ashby

H.R. No. 397

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 397 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 13, 2025.

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Chief Clerk of the House