

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Grand Prairie bid farewell to a
2 respected elected official, educator, and civic leader with the
3 passing of former State Representative Billy Len Arnold on
4 November 27, 2023, at the age of 97; and

5 WHEREAS, Bill Arnold was born on August 17, 1926, in the small
6 farming community of Peerless in Hopkins County; he was raised by
7 his mother, Bessie Hope Evans Arnold, his grandparents, John and
8 Agnes Evans, and his uncles, Marvin, Bascom, and Sam Evans, and he
9 grew up with the companionship of four siblings, Jeff, Lasca, Mary
10 Jo, and Hellen; he was a member of the first graduating class at
11 North Hopkins School in 1944; answering his nation's call to duty,
12 he joined the U.S. Navy and served aboard the light cruiser U.S.S.
13 *Columbia* in the South Pacific during World War II; following his
14 honorable discharge, he earned a degree from East Texas State
15 Teachers College, and he later received a master's degree in
16 education; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Arnold began his teaching career in Tyler, and
18 in 1954, he relocated to Grand Prairie; after several years in the
19 classroom, he was promoted to principal of an elementary school and
20 later a junior high; in 1968, he became the assistant
21 superintendent for business administration for the Grand Prairie
22 Independent School District, and he retired in 1986 as deputy
23 superintendent; throughout his tenure, he was active in a number of
24 professional associations, including the Texas Association of

1 School Business Officials, which he led as president for a term; and

2 WHEREAS, First elected to the Texas House of Representatives
3 in 1986, Mr. Arnold worked tirelessly in behalf of his constituents
4 in House District 106; during his three terms in office, he served
5 on numerous committees, including Elections, Public Safety, House
6 Administration, Public Education, and Rules and Resolutions, and he
7 was vice chair of the Public Safety Committee during the 71st and
8 72nd Legislatures; he concluded his tenure in January 1993,
9 following six years of exemplary public service; and

10 WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Arnold was involved in
11 the Optimist Club as well as the Grand Prairie Rotary Club, where he
12 served as president and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow; he also
13 held the office of president of the Grand Prairie Chamber of
14 Commerce, served on the board of the YMCA, and contributed to a
15 number of Boy Scouts of America fundraising drives; among his many
16 accolades, he was named Citizen of the Year, and in 2002, Grand
17 Prairie ISD named Bill Arnold Middle School in his honor; and

18 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Arnold enjoyed the love
19 and support of his wife, Laura, with whom he shared a rewarding
20 marriage that spanned more than seven decades; he took great pride
21 in their two sons, Bryan and Brent, and over the years, he had the
22 pleasure of seeing his family grow to include five grandchildren,
23 Clint, Kathryn, Walt, Ginny, and Tessa, and six
24 great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Harrison, Jack, Charlie, Maggie,
25 and Will; a man of deep faith, he was a devoted congregant of First
26 Baptist Church Grand Prairie, where he served as a deacon, Sunday
27 school teacher, and member of pastoral search committees; and

H.R. No. 806

1 WHEREAS, Although Bill Arnold is deeply missed by those he
2 left behind, his life stands as an outstanding example of civic
3 engagement, and his contributions will continue to be remembered
4 and admired in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Billy
7 Len Arnold and extend heartfelt sympathy to all who mourn his
8 passing; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill
12 Arnold.

Turner

Burrows	Guerra	Morales Shaw
Alders	Guillen	Morgan
Allen	Harless	Muñoz
Anchía	Harris	Noble
Ashby	Harris Davila	Olcott
Barry	Harrison	Oliverson
Bell of Kaufman	Hayes	Ordaz
Bell of Montgomery	Hefner	Orr
Bernal	Hernandez	Patterson
Bhojani	Hickland	Paul
Bonnen	Hinojosa	Perez of El Paso
Bowers	Holt	Perez of Harris
Bryant	Hopper	Phelan
Buckley	Howard	Pierson
Bucy	Hull	Plesa
Bumgarner	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Cain	Johnson	Richardson
Campos	Jones of Dallas	Rodríguez Ramos
Canales	Jones of Harris	Romero
Capriglione	Kerwin	Rose
Cole	King	Rosenthal
Collier	Kitzman	Schatzline
Cook	LaHood	Schofield
Cortez	Lalani	Schoolcraft
Craddick	Lambert	Shaheen
Cunningham	Landgraf	Shofner
Curry	Leach	Simmons
Darby	Leo Wilson	Slawson
A. Davis of Dallas	Little	Smithee
Y. Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spiller
Dean	Lopez of Bexar	Swanson
DeAyala	Lopez of Cameron	Talarico
Dorazio	Louderback	Tepper
Dutton	Lowe	Thompson
Dyson	Lozano	Tinderholt
Fairly	Lujan	Toth
Flores	Luther	Troxclair
Frank	Manuel	Turner
Gámez	Martinez	VanDeaver
Garcia of Bexar	Martinez Fischer	Vasut
Garcia of Dallas	McLaughlin	Villalobos
Garcia Hernandez	McQueeney	Virdell
Gates	Metcalf	Vo
Gerdes	Meyer	Walle
Geren	Meza	Ward Johnson
Gervin-Hawkins	Money	Wharton
González of Dallas	Moody	Wilson
González of El Paso	Morales of Harris	Wu
Goodwin	Morales of Maverick	Zwiener

H.R. No. 806

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 806 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 23, 2025.

Chief Clerk of the House