

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former state representative James R. Pitts of
2 Waxahachie passed away on July 20, 2024, at the age of 77, bringing
3 a great loss to his family and friends and to the State of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Agnes and Roy Pitts, Jim Pitts was born in
5 Dallas on January 1, 1947, and he grew up with the companionship of
6 his older sister, Rosemary, and identical twin, John; he graduated
7 from Jesuit High School and went on to attend Southern Methodist
8 University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in
9 business administration as well as a juris doctor degree; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts began his legal career as an associate in
11 the law office of Lynn G. Griffith, and in 1984, he established his
12 own firm in Waxahachie; he continued to practice law throughout his
13 life; he also owned Ellis County Title Company, where he served as
14 board chair and legal counsel; and

15 WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Pitts was a member of
16 the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, and he served on its board of
17 directors and later became board president; in addition, he was
18 involved in the Waxahachie Lions Club, the Community Advisory
19 Council for Scottish Rite Learning Center, and the Waxahachie
20 Foundation, and he held leadership positions with Citizens National
21 Bank of Texas, Nicholas P. Sims Library, Presbyterian Children's
22 Services, Broadway Dallas, ZACH Theatre in Austin, and the Baylor
23 Scott & White Medical Board in Waxahachie; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts won election to the Waxahachie

1 Independent School District Board of Trustees in 1978, and he held
2 that seat for 14 years and served as the board's president; in 1992,
3 he successfully ran for the District 10 seat in the Texas House of
4 Representatives; he was sworn into office in January 1993, and over
5 the course of his tenure, he worked tirelessly in behalf of his
6 constituents; he was an avid supporter of area school districts,
7 and he contributed to a variety of projects benefiting the
8 residents of Ellis, Hill, and Henderson Counties; he also authored
9 the resolution that designated Waxahachie as the Crape Myrtle
10 Capital of Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, During his 11 terms in office, Mr. Pitts was a
12 member of numerous committees; he was first appointed to the
13 appropriations committee in 1997, and he went on to serve as its
14 chair for a decade; in that position, he took on the important task
15 of overseeing the development of the state's budget, and he
16 championed wise financial stewardship; in addition, he held
17 leadership roles with several appropriations subcommittees as well
18 as with a number of other committees, including ways and means and
19 government reform; and

20 WHEREAS, Among his many achievements, Mr. Pitts was named to
21 the Ten Best Legislators list by *Texas Monthly* in 2005, 2009, and
22 2013; he concluded his career in the Texas House in January 2015,
23 following more than two decades of distinguished public service; in
24 his retirement, he continued to work on key issues in the
25 legislature as the founder of Jim Pitts Consulting; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts married the former Evelyn Eastham on
27 May 22, 1971, and the couple shared a rewarding union that spanned

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1 33 years before Mrs. Pitts tragically passed away in 2004; they
2 were the proud parents of three children, Duffy, Ashley, and Ryan,
3 and over the years, their treasured family grew to include six
4 grandchildren, Jackson, Owen, Will, Margaret, Evelyn, and James
5 Reagan; he was a steadfast source of encouragement for his children
6 and grandchildren, and he took great pleasure in hosting guests at
7 his home; and

8 WHEREAS, An esteemed legislator, attorney, and community
9 leader, Jim Pitts exemplified the highest ideals of public service,
10 and his contributions to his fellow Texans will be remembered and
11 admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable
14 James R. Pitts and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many
15 friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jim Pitts.

Ashby
Hunter
Geren
Thompson
Longoria

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 863 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 13, 2025.

Chief Clerk of the House