

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

In Memory
of
Barry Telford

WHEREAS, Residents of Northeast Texas are mourning the loss of longtime state representative Barry Bradford Telford of De Kalb, who passed away on June 1, 2024, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Born in New Boston on October 24, 1946, Barry Telford was the son of John Quincy Telford and Bertha Van Hooser Telford; he married the former Marsha Cunningham on September 3, 1966, and they were blessed with two children, Anna Christina and John; after attending Texarkana Junior College, Mr. Telford earned his bachelor's degree in education from North Texas State University; he became owner and operator of a family business, Telford Gas and Furniture; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Mr. Telford was elected to the first of nine terms in the Texas House of Representatives; he held a number of leadership roles, including chair of the Calendars and the Pensions and Investments Committees; committed to strengthening the state's pension system, he was instrumental in improving benefits for state employees and oversaw the Consumer Price Index Catch-Up Plan, a significant legislative change that provided relief to public education retirees impacted by inflation; he also advocated for students and teachers and helped expand access to higher education in Northeast Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Telford greatly benefited the state as chair of the Select Committee on Rural Development; in addition, he worked to improve the prison system, serving as vice chair of the Corrections Committee and as chair of the Corrections Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight; the Barry B. Telford Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in New Boston was named in his honor; he further served as co-chair of the Texas State Artist Committee, and he was a member of numerous other committees, among them Human Services, House Administration, and Judicial Affairs; a friend and mentor to many, he was admired by legislators, staff, and the wider Capitol community for his fair-mindedness and dedication, as well as for his sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the legislature in 2005, Mr. Telford continued to give generously of his time and talents in behalf of his community; he belonged to the De Kalb Masonic Lodge No. 9 and First United Methodist Church; a member of the Maud Gun Club, he enjoyed skeet shooting and hunting; he was also a voracious reader; and

WHEREAS, Barry Telford was a devoted public servant and an effective champion for rural Texans, and although he is deeply missed by those he left behind, his contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Barry Bradford Telford and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Marsha Cunningham Telford; to

his children, Anna Christina Telford and her husband, Jason Cording, and John Farris Telford and his wife, Molly Darden Telford; to his grandchildren, Quincy Cole Telford, Zoe Kate Telford, and Gracie Reese Telford; to his sisters-in-law, Lois Crim, Brenda Smith, and Gay Cunningham; to his brother-in-law, Winston Cunningham; to his nephews, Quincy Ellis Telford and Bradford Grey Telford; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Barry Telford.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 26, 2025, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate