

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 155

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Telford greatly benefited the state as chair of
23 the Select Committee on Rural Development; in addition, he worked
24 to improve the prison system, serving as vice chair of the

1 Corrections Committee and as chair of the Corrections Subcommittee
2 on Budget and Oversight; the Barry B. Telford Unit of the Texas
3 Department of Criminal Justice in New Boston was named in his honor;
4 he further served as co-chair of the Texas State Artist Committee,
5 and he was a member of numerous other committees, among them Human
6 Services, House Administration, and Judicial Affairs; a friend and
7 mentor to many, he was admired by legislators, staff, and the wider
8 Capitol community for his fair-mindedness and dedication, as well
9 as for his sense of humor; and

10 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the legislature in
11 2005, Mr. Telford continued to give generously of his time and
12 talents in behalf of his community; he belonged to the De Kalb
13 Masonic Lodge No. 9 and First United Methodist Church; a member of
14 the Maud Gun Club, he enjoyed skeet shooting and hunting; he was
15 also a voracious reader; and

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

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
21 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Barry Bradford
22 Telford and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
23 family: to his wife, Marsha Cunningham Telford; to his children,
24 Anna Christina Telford and her husband, Jason Cording, and John
25 Farris Telford and his wife, Molly Darden Telford; to his
26 grandchildren, Quincy Cole Telford, Zoe Kate Telford, and Gracie
27 Reese Telford; to his sisters-in-law, Lois Crim, Brenda Smith, and

S.R. No. 155

1 Gay Cunningham; to his brother-in-law, Winston Cunningham; to his
2 nephews, Quincy Ellis Telford and Bradford Grey Telford; and to his
3 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

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