

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 243

In Memory
of
Olen Underwood

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of the Honorable Olen Underwood, a cherished member of the Montgomery County community who died February 28, 2025, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Born May 25, 1942, Olen Underwood was an esteemed Texan who pursued excellence in all his endeavors and improved the lives of many through his decades of distinguished public service; and

WHEREAS, A talented athlete, he played defensive end for The University of Texas at Austin and helped the Longhorns claim the 1963 national championship and a victory in the 1965 Orange Bowl; he was selected by the New York Giants in the 1965 National Football League draft, and he went on to play for the Houston Oilers from 1966 to 1969; while managing his obligations as a professional football player, he also earned a law degree from the University of Houston; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Underwood led a rewarding career as a lawyer in the Houston area, and in 1981, he was appointed judge of Montgomery County's newly created 284th District Court, where he set lasting standards for judicial diligence during his six terms; in 1996, he was appointed to preside over the Second Administrative Judicial Region of Texas, and he guided the court with fairness and impartiality until 2022; and

WHEREAS, Led by a conviction to assist troubled youth in Montgomery County, in 1993 Judge Underwood established the Student Transition and Recovery Program to connect at-risk

middle school students with caring mentors; the county honored his work and contributions to the community by establishing the Olen Underwood Juvenile Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, Olen Underwood inspired his friends and loved ones through his devotion to his faith, his family, and his fellow citizens; he was beloved by many, and Texans will continue to benefit from his legacy of public service long into the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of the Honorable Olen Underwood; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Olen Underwood.

Creighton

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 12, 2025, by rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate