

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 690

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of Gerald Mack Bennett of Jefferson on April 28, 2025, at  
3 the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Jim Wilson and Finna Faye Bennett, Jerry  
5 Bennett was born in Marshall on July 14, 1950, and he grew up with  
6 the companionship of four siblings, Jim, Phil, Judy, and Glenn; a  
7 member of the Marshall High School Class of 1968, he went on to  
8 graduate from Louisiana Tech University with a bachelor's degree in  
9 education in 1976; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett enjoyed a long and rewarding career as  
11 an educator and football coach, starting with his first job as an  
12 assistant coach at Marshall High School; he then served as a  
13 defensive coordinator at Queen City High for two years before  
14 landing a head coaching position at Jefferson High; in 1986, he led  
15 the Jefferson Bulldogs to an undefeated season and a 3A state  
16 championship, garnering Cypress Valley, District 16-AAA, and Texas  
17 Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year honors; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2002, Mr. Bennett began coaching running backs  
19 and inside receivers at Southern Methodist University alongside his  
20 brother, head coach Phil Bennett; he later helmed the football  
21 program at Linden-Kildare High before returning to Jefferson, where  
22 he coached until his retirement in 2013; in recognition of his  
23 exceptional work, he was inducted into the East Texas Coaches  
24 Association Hall of Honor in 2015; and

1           WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Coach Bennett benefited from  
2 the love and support of his wife, Tammy, and their daughter, Ashley;  
3 a member of First Baptist Church Jefferson, he and Mrs. Bennett  
4 taught third- and fourth-grade Sunday school for several years, and  
5 he served as chair of the usher and personnel committees; and

6           WHEREAS, Although Jerry Bennett is greatly missed, he will  
7 forever be remembered with admiration and affection by his loved  
8 ones and by the countless other individuals whose lives he touched;  
9 now, therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature  
11 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Gerald Mack Bennett and extend  
12 heartfelt sympathy to his family: to his wife of 42 years, Tammy  
13 Bennett; to his daughter, Ashley Ann Bennett; to his siblings, Jim  
14 Bennett and his wife, Peggy, Phil Bennett and his wife, Julie, and  
15 Judy Bennett Kimberly and her husband, Kirby; and to his other  
16 relatives and friends; and, be it further

17          RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
19 day, it do so in memory of Jerry Bennett.