

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a respected jurist drew to a close with
2 the passing of the Honorable Morris Lee Overstreet on March 3, 2024,
3 at the age of 73; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Amarillo on July 10, 1950, Morris Overstreet
5 was the son of West and Nora Johnson Overstreet; he distinguished
6 himself athletically at George Washington Carver High School, where
7 he played football and competed in track and field, and he went on
8 to graduate with honors from Amarillo High School; he earned a track
9 scholarship to Angelo State University, and after receiving a
10 degree in sociology, he obtained his juris doctor degree from the
11 school of law at Texas Southern University; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Overstreet began his career in public service,
13 becoming an assistant district attorney in Amarillo's
14 47th Judicial District; he transitioned to private practice from
15 1981 to 1986, and he subsequently served for four years as the
16 presiding judge for the Potter County Court; in 1990, he
17 successfully ran for a seat on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals,
18 making him the first African American elected to a statewide
19 position in Texas since Reconstruction; he authored more than 500
20 opinions during his seven years on the court; and

21 WHEREAS, Later in his career, Judge Overstreet practiced law
22 in Austin, Houston, and Galveston, as well as in Waller County; he
23 served as a judge in Waller County's Prairie View Municipal Court,
24 and he gave back to his alma mater, TSU, in his roles as director of

1 its legal clinic and as a distinguished visiting professor;
2 moreover, he joined with his cousin Brian Overstreet to operate a
3 sports management firm, USG Sports; he was a partner with the law
4 firm of Hance Scarborough, LLP, until shortly before his death, and
5 he held membership in such organizations as the State Bar of Texas,
6 the American Bar Association, and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Overstreet shared a rewarding marriage with
8 his wife, Dr. Carla Ortique, and his cherished family included his
9 two children, Elizabeth and West, as well as three grandchildren,
10 Tyriece, Marrissa, and Morris; he delighted in traveling and
11 celebrating holidays with his loved ones, and he brought joy to many
12 family gatherings with his playful sense of humor; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Morris Overstreet made an indelible impact
14 through his myriad accomplishments as a public servant, civic
15 leader, and legal authority, and he will forever be a source of
16 inspiration to those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Morris
19 Lee Overstreet and extend deepest condolences to his family and
20 friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge
24 Morris Overstreet.

Raymond

H.R. No. 14

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 14 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 6, 2025.

Chief Clerk of the House