

By: Price

H.R. No. 518

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of former Texas state representative
2 David Anthony Swinford on December 31, 2022, at the age of 81
3 concluded a remarkable life of service to the Texas Panhandle and to
4 the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, David Swinford was born in Wichita Falls on June 28,
6 1941, to Oley and Hazel Swinford, and he grew up with the
7 companionship of three brothers, Sammy Alan, Earl, and Jerry;
8 following his graduation from Frenship High School, he continued
9 his education at South Plains College and then at Texas Tech
10 University, where he earned a degree in agriculture education; on
11 June 19, 1964, he exchanged wedding vows with the former Milas Joyce
12 McCoy, and the couple settled in Dumas; they shared a rewarding
13 marriage spanning more than five and a half decades, during which
14 they became the proud parents of two children, Chris and Melissa;
15 with the passage of time, Mr. Swinford welcomed five grandchildren
16 and five great-grandchildren into his treasured family; he was
17 preceded in death by a granddaughter, Christie Marie Bates; and

18 WHEREAS, After first working for Lindsey Seed Company of
19 Lubbock, Mr. Swinford launched his tenure with Moore County Grain
20 in 1969; six years later, he and three business partners purchased
21 the operation, and he subsequently took the helm of the Moore County
22 Grain Handling Company as president and general manager; his wife
23 and children played a vital role in the success of the business,
24 which became one of the largest independent grain companies in

1 Texas; he sold the company to Dumas Co-op, taking on work there as
2 the marketing manager, and he ultimately left the co-op to
3 establish Ag-Plus Consulting; and

4 WHEREAS, Committed to serving his fellow citizens,
5 Mr. Swinford successfully ran for a seat in the Texas House of
6 Representatives in 1990, and he took office on January 8, 1991; he
7 demonstrated great diligence in representing the counties of House
8 Districts 87 and 88 over the course of two decades and 10
9 legislative sessions, and he and other legislators from the
10 Panhandle helped secure many key benefits for the region; among his
11 most notable accomplishments in office, Representative Swinford
12 led the charge to establish wind farms on the High Plains, thereby
13 stimulating economic growth and job creation with the production of
14 wind power; and

15 WHEREAS, Earning a reputation for his strong leadership and
16 keen intellect, Mr. Swinford was actively involved with caucuses,
17 and he chaired a number of house committees, including State
18 Affairs, Government Reform, and Agriculture and Livestock, as well
19 as Public School Finance, Select Subcommittee on Governance;
20 moreover, he received a gubernatorial appointment to the Southern
21 States Energy Board, and he was appointed to the Texas Energy
22 Council and the Texas Ag Policy Board; his legislative efforts in
23 behalf of his constituents were recognized by many, and he garnered
24 numerous well-deserved accolades for his work; he retired as a
25 state representative on August 31, 2010; and

26 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mr. Swinford actively supported
27 the community at large, including as director of the Dumas/Moore

1 County Chamber of Commerce and as president of the school board; he
2 was a certified vocational education teacher and an agricultural
3 consultant, and he lent his time and talents to local FFA clubs and
4 to such organizations as the Dumas Little League, the Dumas Noon
5 Lions Club, and the United Way; furthermore, he was honored by the
6 Dumas Economic Development Corporation for his outstanding service
7 to the board of directors; he also belonged to the National Grain
8 and Feed Association, the Panhandle Grain and Feed Association, the
9 Texas Grain and Feed Association, and the Texas Conservative
10 Coalition; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Swinford was a devoted Christian, and he found
12 great joy in serving his congregation at Sunray Church of Christ;
13 additionally, he helped share the gospel worldwide through his
14 partnership with the Sunset International Bible Institute in
15 Lubbock; a member of the Sunset Council, he assisted with capital
16 campaigns and with SIBI degree programs, and he helped facilitate a
17 grant program from his church that supplied solar-powered audio
18 players containing Bible teachings to a number of countries; and

19 WHEREAS, A loving husband, father, and grandfather,
20 Mr. Swinford cherished his family; he and his wife spent countless
21 hours helping their children with their 4-H and FFA livestock
22 projects, and he cheered on his grandsons at their academic,
23 sporting, agriculture, and music events; and

24 WHEREAS, David Swinford earned the respect and admiration of
25 all who knew him, not only for his exemplary service as a Texas
26 state representative but also for his exceptional kindness and
27 generosity, and he leaves behind a legacy that will resonate for

1 years to come; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable David
4 Anthony Swinford and extend deepest condolences to the members of
5 his family: to his wife, Joyce Swinford; to his son, David
6 Christopher Swinford, and his wife, Brenda; to his daughter,
7 Melissa Rae Swinford Bates, and her husband, Rob; to his
8 grandchildren, Phillip Bates and his wife, Alayna, William Bates
9 and his wife, Isabel, Alan Swinford and his wife, Haylee, and Daniel
10 Swinford; to his great-grandchildren, Adelyn, Ellie, Gavin,
11 Kieran, and Josiah; to his brother-in-law, David McCoy; to his
12 sisters-in-law, Sylvia Swinford and Jimmie Swinford; and to his
13 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of David
17 Anthony Swinford.