

By: Branch

H.C.R. No. 9

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Jack Pope, a retired chief justice of
2 the Texas Supreme Court who has rendered immeasurable service to
3 the Lone Star State, is celebrating his 98th birthday on April 18,
4 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, This remarkable milestone signifies the beginning
6 of the ninth year of the ninth decade of Chief Justice Pope's
7 accomplished life; and

8 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Abilene, Chief Justice Pope knew
9 from the time he was a boy that he wanted to be a lawyer; as a youth,
10 he also showed the passion for learning that later marked his
11 distinguished career and that would make him an early proponent of
12 judicial education in Texas; a voracious reader, he found
13 inspiration in such figures as the Roman historian Tacitus and
14 orator Cicero and in the American legal philosophers Roscoe Pound
15 and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.; and

16 WHEREAS, After graduating from Abilene High School in 1930,
17 Jack Pope attended Abilene Christian College, where he majored in
18 speech, earned letters as a member of the debate and tennis teams,
19 and served as president of the junior class and the student
20 association; subsequently, at The University of Texas School of
21 Law, he served as editor of the *Texas Law Review*; and

22 WHEREAS, Licensed by the bar in 1937, Chief Justice Pope
23 moved to Corpus Christi and joined the firm of his uncle, former
24 state representative Walter E. Pope; he quickly gained wide-ranging

1 experience in civil and criminal law and in New Deal-era labor and
2 transportation regulatory law; and

3 WHEREAS, Though he was exempt from military service in World
4 War II because he was the father of two young children, Chief
5 Justice Pope enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1944 and served
6 stateside for the next two years; discharged in 1946, he returned to
7 the practice of law but later that year received an appointment as
8 judge of the 94th District Court and became, at the age of 33, the
9 youngest district judge then serving in Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1950, Chief Justice Pope won the first of three
11 consecutive terms on the Court of Civil Appeals in San Antonio;
12 during his tenure, he issued a landmark ruling concerning the
13 Spanish roots of Texas water law, establishing a precedent that
14 continues to guide jurists to the present day; and

15 WHEREAS, Elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1964, Chief
16 Justice Pope helped to draft significant rulings on property rights
17 and judicial and procedural reform during his years as an associate
18 justice; in 1982, Governor Bill Clements appointed him to the post
19 of chief justice, an office he held until his retirement in 1985;
20 his tenure in that post was marked by the elimination of double
21 appeals and by other important reforms in court administration; at
22 the time he returned to private life, Chief Justice Pope's
23 cumulative service on the bench in trial and appellate courts made
24 him the longest-serving judge in the history of the Texas Supreme
25 Court; and

26 WHEREAS, Known for the lucidity of his thought and writing,
27 he published more than 1,000 judicial opinions and over 70

1 law-related articles during the course of his career; and

2 WHEREAS, Since stepping down from the bench some 25 years
3 ago, Chief Justice Pope has continued to lead an active life; he has
4 served as president of the *Christian Chronicle* National Council, an
5 advisory body created to serve the international newspaper of the
6 Churches of Christ, coedited a volume about his ancestor John
7 Berry, a notable Texas pioneer, and cofounded the Texas Supreme
8 Court Historical Society, which has named him chair emeritus; an
9 avid walker who is well-known among his neighbors for his habitual
10 jaunts, Chief Justice Pope was featured by an Austin television
11 station as he trained to walk 9.6 miles in celebration of his 96th
12 birthday, stretching to reach his toes with an ease that would make
13 a teenage athlete envious; and

14 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope credits Abilene Christian
15 University with providing an essential foundation for his success
16 in life, and in return for the invaluable lessons he learned there,
17 he has been one of that school's staunchest supporters; he joined
18 the ACU Board of Trustees in 1954 and has served on the senior board
19 since 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, In tribute to its esteemed graduate, ACU has
21 conferred on Chief Justice Pope its Outstanding Alumnus of the Year
22 award, as well as its Change the World award; moreover, since 1989,
23 the school has bestowed scholarships on outstanding students who
24 are intending to pursue a career in public service, designating
25 them as Jack Pope Fellows; and

26 WHEREAS, Another institution that has benefited from Chief
27 Justice Pope's active involvement is the State Law Library, which

1 was created as a separate state agency in 1971 largely through his
2 efforts; Chief Justice Pope serves as a member emeritus of the
3 Friends of the State Law Library Board of Directors, and the Friends
4 have recognized him and another former chief justice, the late Joe
5 Greenhill, with the establishment of the Greenhill-Pope Law Book
6 Fund; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope is the recipient of four honorary
8 degrees and countless other accolades; in 2009, the Texas Center
9 for Legal Ethics presented him with its first Chief Justice Jack
10 Pope Professionalism Award, and in 2010, the judicial section of
11 the State Bar of Texas honored him with its inaugural Judicial
12 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

13 WHEREAS, From their marriage in 1938 until her passing in
14 2004, Jack Pope and his wife, Allene, shared a richly rewarding
15 union; their family today includes two sons, Allen and Jackson
16 Pope, two grandsons, Drew and Ryan Pope, and two
17 great-grandchildren, Dylan and Peyton Locke; and

18 WHEREAS, Hailed for his intellect and integrity, Chief
19 Justice Pope has contributed significantly to jurisprudence in the
20 State of Texas, and it is indeed a privilege to join in wishing him
21 well on this special day; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby congratulate the Honorable Jack Pope on the joyous occasion
24 of his 98th birthday and extend to him profound appreciation for his
25 exemplary public service; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Chief Justice Pope as an expression of high regard by

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1 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.