

By: Collier

H.R. No. 22

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of admired civic leader Devoyd Jennings  
2 of Fort Worth on July 24, 2021, at the age of 73, brought a great  
3 loss to his family and friends; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Los Angeles, California, on September 10,  
5 1947, "Dee" Jennings was the son of William and Margaret Jennings;  
6 he grew up in Fort Worth and attended I. M. Terrell High School and  
7 Tarrant County Community College before completing his bachelor's  
8 degree in marketing at Texas Wesleyan University; in 1973, he began  
9 working for Texas Electric as a consumer specialist, and during his  
10 noteworthy 27-year career with the company, he became its first  
11 African American lobbyist; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Jennings was involved in many business and  
13 civic organizations and served as president and CEO of the Fort  
14 Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; he was instrumental  
15 in its establishment of two leadership programs, Paths Forward  
16 and BRIDGE; in addition, he helped create two standalone  
17 organizations that directly benefit minority development, the  
18 William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation and Southeast  
19 Fort Worth Incorporated; he further served as chair of the North  
20 Texas Tollway Authority's Business Diversity Advisory Committee  
21 and worked tirelessly with public officials and others to advance  
22 minority- and women-owned businesses; deeply committed to  
23 education, he was a member of the board of Texas Wesleyan University  
24 for nearly two decades; he successfully championed the refurbishing

1 of his old elementary school, G. W. Carver, and the reopening of  
2 I. M. Terrell as a STEM and performing arts academy; moreover, he  
3 was an active alumnus of the I. M. Terrell Class of 1966; the  
4 recipient of numerous accolades, he was honored by the City of Fort  
5 Worth in 1992 and 2005 with proclamations of Devoyd Jennings Day; he  
6 was also recognized three times by the *Fort Worth Business Press*,  
7 most recently with a 2017 Minority Leaders in Business Award; and

8         WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Mr. Jennings shared a  
9 fulfilling 41-year marriage with his wife, Gwen; he took great  
10 pride in his 5 children, Charles, Robert, Demeka, Carla, and  
11 Sharla, as well as his 11 grandchildren, Gerome, Jasmine, Jordan,  
12 Isis, Kyzier, Zion, Anthony, Dominique, Lala, Jared, and Yancy, and  
13 his great-granddaughter, Princess; in his free time, he enjoyed  
14 listening to jazz and playing basketball; and

15         WHEREAS, Dee Jennings gave freely of his time and expertise  
16 to better his community, and his record of service will be a lasting  
17 source of inspiration to all who were privileged to know him; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
20 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
21 Devoyd Jennings and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones;  
22 and, be it further

23         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dee  
26 Jennings.