

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.R. No. 451

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Dallas lost a dynamic and compassionate  
2 community leader with the death of Bishop Omar Jahwar on March 11,  
3 2021, at the age of 47; and

4           WHEREAS, Omar Jahwar was born on April 3, 1973, to Larry and  
5 Rosetta Jefferson, and he grew up in the Oak Cliff neighborhood with  
6 four siblings, Leon, Roman, Larry, and Fayth; from an early age, he  
7 was an avid reader and a gifted musician, and he attended Lancaster  
8 High School, where he was the first Black student body president;  
9 after narrowly avoiding a prison sentence as a troubled teenager,  
10 he committed himself at the age of 17 to helping other young people,  
11 volunteering to conduct intervention sessions with gang members at  
12 Gainesville State School; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1997, Bishop Jahwar was honored at the White  
14 House for his efforts in Gainesville and became the youngest person  
15 ever to win the national Achievement Against the Odds award from the  
16 Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, and the following year, he  
17 founded the nonprofit group Urban Specialists, which works to  
18 eliminate urban violence; in 2000, he negotiated a peace treaty  
19 between the Blood and Crip gangs in Dallas, and in 2002, he traveled  
20 to Russia to consult about gang violence there; in 2019, Urban  
21 Specialists launched the OGU program, which trains former gang  
22 leaders to mentor at-risk youth, and that same year, Bishop Jahwar  
23 embarked upon the national Heal America Tour, which has reached  
24 70,000 people in cities across America; and

1           WHEREAS, A man of deep religious faith, Bishop Jahwar was  
2 presiding bishop of the Kingdom Covenant of Churches and senior  
3 pastor of Kingdom WAR Legacy Church in South Dallas; in 2016, he was  
4 a guest of Speaker of the House Paul Ryan at the State of the Union  
5 Address, and the following year, Urban Specialists was recognized  
6 with the International Humanitarian Award in Dallas; in 2019,  
7 Bishop Jahwar received the Rise and Shine Award from WFAA, the  
8 Dallas ABC news affiliate; and

9           WHEREAS, Family was paramount to Bishop Jahwar, and he was a  
10 loving husband to his wife, Anita, and the proud father of four  
11 children, Omar, Tabia, Omni, and Anaya; and

12           WHEREAS, Omar Jahwar lived a full and generous life devoted  
13 to his family, his community, and his faith, and his legacy of  
14 leadership and his commitment to justice and nonviolence will  
15 continue to inspire all those who were fortunate enough to know him;  
16 now, therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bishop Omar Jahwar  
19 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family, his congregation, and  
20 his many friends and colleagues; 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 Bishop Omar  
24 Jahwar.