

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 34

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of joyful times and meaningful
2 accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends of Harlon
3 Brooks of Nacogdoches, who passed away on August 20, 2023, at the
4 age of 79; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Gaylon and Topsy Brooks, Harlon Brooks
6 was born in Nacogdoches on December 19, 1943, and he grew up with
7 the companionship of four sisters, Rose, Ella, Anita, and Mary; he
8 graduated from E. J. Campbell High School in 1961; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks married his high school sweetheart,
10 Alfreddie, and the couple shared many happy years together until
11 his passing; they were blessed with two children, Candace and
12 Marlon, and their treasured family eventually grew to include five
13 grandchildren, Gabriel, Jordan, Michael, Isaac, and Jacob; and

14 WHEREAS, Together with his wife and two of his friends,
15 Mr. Brooks founded Harlon's BBQ in Houston in 1977; the restaurant
16 originally operated out of a former gas station in the South Park
17 neighborhood, and it later became one of the first Black-owned
18 businesses to establish sites at major airports and to serve as a
19 food vendor at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; over the years,
20 the business grew to include more than two dozen locations across
21 Texas before it closed its physical stores and transitioned to
22 special events catering; in 2010, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks retired to
23 their hometown of Nacogdoches, where they purchased several local
24 enterprises; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was involved in a number of organizations
2 and events throughout his life, including the Texas Blueberry
3 Festival, Concerned Black Men of Nacogdoches, RodeoHouston, and the
4 Wings Over Houston Airshow, and he was an active member of Iron
5 Wheel Baptist Church; among his many honors, he received the
6 African American Business Achievement Pinnacle Award from the
7 Greater Houston Black Chamber in 2000; and

8 WHEREAS, Harlon Brooks lived a rich and purposeful life
9 centered around his family, his work, and his community, and he will
10 long be remembered with deep admiration and affection by all who
11 were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
13 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
14 of Harlon Brooks and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones;
15 and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Harlon
19 Brooks.