

By: Collier

H.R. No. 582

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

1 elementary school, G. W. Carver, and the reopening of I. M. Terrell  
2 as a STEM and performing arts academy; moreover, he was an active  
3 alumnus of the I. M. Terrell Class of 1966; the recipient of  
4 numerous accolades, he was honored by the City of Fort Worth in 1992  
5 and 2005 with proclamations of Devoyd Jennings Day; he was also  
6 recognized three times by the *Fort Worth Business Press*, most  
7 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 88th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Devoyd "Dee" Jennings  
21 and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

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