

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 657

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Nacogdoches lost an admired civic  
2 leader with the passing of Dr. Leon Charles Hallman on January 14,  
3 2023, at the age of 85; and

4           WHEREAS, Leon Hallman was born in Dallas on May 8, 1937, to  
5 Edgar and Helen Frances Hallman; after starting his career as an  
6 accountant, he changed course and earned his Ph.D. in geography  
7 from the University of California, Los Angeles, before going to  
8 work as a geography professor at Stephen F. Austin State  
9 University; and

10           WHEREAS, Dr. Hallman excelled as an educator at SFASU and was  
11 promoted to leadership roles that included department chair and  
12 director of the university's Office of International Studies, where  
13 he coordinated exchange programs with countries such as China,  
14 Japan, and Ukraine; he greatly enjoyed his work and remained  
15 passionate about learning, creating, and traveling throughout his  
16 life; and

17           WHEREAS, Active and engaged in his community, Dr. Hallman  
18 served on the Nacogdoches Planning & Zoning Committee before he was  
19 elected to the city commission, now known as the city council; he  
20 was dedicated to promoting economic development, and he also served  
21 on the advisory committee for the city's 2003 comprehensive plan;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, Over the years, Dr. Hallman belonged to a number of  
24 civic and service clubs and held many positions in both the local

1 chamber of commerce and the Nacogdoches Rotary Club; he likewise  
2 volunteered his time generously at the First United Methodist  
3 Church, including as a member of the choir; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Hallman shared his devotion to civic life with  
5 his wife of 43 years, Dr. Patsy Hallman, with whom he founded the  
6 Texas Blueberry Festival in 1989; he conceived the idea for the  
7 event as a means of generating business and paying tribute to local  
8 blueberry farms, and it has since grown to attract tens of thousands  
9 of attendees; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Hallman's loving family further included his  
11 children, Karen, Adaire, Dave, and Bethany, his "adopted" son,  
12 Igor, his grandchildren, Scott, Margaret, Michael, Katherine, and  
13 Alexandra, and his "adopted" grandchildren, Bryan and Vera; he was  
14 preceded in death by his son, Dwayne; and

15 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, a dynamic educator, and a  
16 pillar of his community, Dr. Leon Hallman leaves behind a legacy of  
17 service that will forever inspire those who were privileged to know  
18 him; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Leon Charles  
21 Hallman and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones; and, be it  
22 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 Dr. Leon  
26 Charles Hallman.