

By: Miles

S.R. No. 413

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Earl M. Swindle Sr. of Houston on April 3, 2025, at the
3 age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Bernice and W. M. Swindle, Earl Swindle
5 was born in Shelby County on May 20, 1935, and he was blessed with
6 the companionship of 10 siblings, Perry, David, Kathy, Charles,
7 Earnest, Retha, Pamela, Donna, Dedra, and Dadra; he graduated from
8 Jack Yates High School in 1953, and he went on to earn a bachelor's
9 degree in business administration from Texas Southern University in
10 1957; shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and he
11 served as a sharpshooter for three years until his honorable
12 discharge; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Swindle wed the former Minerva Ellen Higgins on
14 November 13, 1960, and the couple shared a rewarding marriage that
15 spanned 37 years until her passing in 1997; he took great pride in
16 their two sons, Earl and Rodney, and he had the pleasure of seeing
17 their treasured family grow to include three grandsons, Issaiah,
18 Zane, and Jarrett; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1960, Mr. Swindle began his career at the Gulf
20 Oil Company as an entry-level executive; later that year, he
21 accepted an offer to become one of the first African American
22 proprietors of a Gulf Oil retail service and fuel operation; he
23 subsequently opened Swindle's Gulf Service Station, later known as
24 Swindle's Chevron; and

1 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Swindle's establishment became
2 a gathering place for Third Ward community members from all walks of
3 life; in recognition of its success, he was awarded the Gulf Oil
4 Company Gold Service Award five times, and he also served twice as
5 president of the company's honor council; he employed many of his
6 extended family members, and he also benefited from his wife's
7 assistance for more than three and a half decades; after closing the
8 station in 2001, he worked briefly for Randall Reed Ford before
9 embarking on a 17-year tenure with the The Home Depot; and

10 WHEREAS, Dedicated to assisting future generations,
11 Mr. Swindle sponsored a number of youth sports teams and
12 development programs; he also collaborated with area high schools
13 to create a workforce training program, and he frequently gave of
14 his time and resources to help Texas Southern University students
15 with automotive repairs; in addition, he supported numerous local
16 churches; and

17 WHEREAS, Earl Swindle lived a life that was rich in family,
18 friends, and community service, and those who were privileged to
19 share in his love and affection will forever hold him close in their
20 hearts; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
22 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Earl M. Swindle Sr. and extend
23 heartfelt condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
26 day, it do so in memory of Earl Swindle.