

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 5

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Gregory Wayne Spencer of Fort Worth  
2 on June 24, 2003, at the age of 46, brought a great loss to the  
3 family, friends, and colleagues of this beloved and talented  
4 gentleman; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Fort Worth on December 14, 1956, Reverend  
6 Spencer graduated from Green B. Trimble Technical High School in  
7 1974 and earned a diploma in funeral directing and embalming from  
8 the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science the following year,  
9 becoming the youngest licensed funeral director in the United  
10 States; he later attended Texas Wesleyan University, where he  
11 studied business and religion; and

12           WHEREAS, After nearly a decade with Baker Funeral Home in  
13 Fort Worth, Reverend Spencer began a series of entrepreneurial  
14 ventures that included his floral business, Flowers by Gregory; in  
15 1980 he founded Love and Care Funeral Home, establishing himself as  
16 the country's youngest sole proprietor of a funeral home, and in  
17 1985 he founded Gregory W. Spencer Funeral Directors, which he  
18 served as president and chairman of the board; and

19           WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, he was ordained as a minister  
20 in July 1978 after devoting several years to serving the  
21 congregation of Zion Missionary Baptist Church; from 1978 to 1981  
22 he served as pastor of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, and on  
23 November 5, 1981, he founded and became pastor of The Church at  
24 Philadelphia, where he baptized more than 1,250 people over the

1 course of his distinguished tenure; and

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Spencer was a noted civic leader who shared  
3 his time and resources with numerous organizations on the local,  
4 state, and national levels; his many affiliations included  
5 membership with the YMCA, the NAACP, and the Alpha Theta Sigma  
6 chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity; he also served on the  
7 boards of the Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, the Original  
8 King's Kids, the Sickle Cell Anemia Association, and Youth  
9 Encouraging Salvation, to name but a few; and

10 WHEREAS, Gregory Spencer was well known for the many roles he  
11 played in his life, most notably pastor, evangelist, mortician,  
12 florist, poet, vocalist, community leader, orator, lyricist, and  
13 philanthropist; his life was a gift to all those who were fortunate  
14 to know him, and his spirit will surely live on in their hearts and  
15 minds for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
17 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Gregory Wayne  
18 Spencer and extend sincere sympathy to his family: to his sons and  
19 daughters-in-law, Derrick and Michelle Johnson, Dondra and  
20 Gwensessa Johnson, Laron Warren, Demerrick "Cheerio" Williams, and  
21 Billy Nellums; to his mother, Flora Lawson; to his dear aunt, Hazel  
22 Ware; to his former wife and best friend, Rosalyn Spencer; to his  
23 brothers and sisters, Robert Spencer, Jr., and his wife, Dr.  
24 Cynthia Spencer Hodge, Melinda Spencer Anderson, the Reverend  
25 Michael Spencer, Sr., and his wife, Karen Spencer, Sandra Spencer  
26 White and her husband, Elder Anthony White, Veronica Spencer  
27 Thomas, Earlisha Spencer-Thomas and her husband, Tennis Thomas, and

1 Joseph Spencer; to his aunts, Helen Minor, Martha Adams, Willie Mae  
2 Walton, Rosalyn Vaughn, Ethel "Duke" Davis, and Lula Howard; to his  
3 nine grandchildren and 33 nieces and nephews; to his extended  
4 family, Diane and James Evans, Sharon and Archer Perry, and  
5 Michelle Jones and the Reverend Charles Jones; to his business  
6 associate, E. J. Walton, and the staff members of Gregory W. Spencer  
7 Funeral Directors, Inc., Gregory W. Spencer & Sons Funeral  
8 Directors of Dallas, and The Church at Philadelphia; and to the many  
9 other relatives, friends, and colleagues of this esteemed  
10 gentleman; and, be it further

11         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
13 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
14 Gregory Wayne Spencer.