

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 24

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Doyle Willis has served his state and
2 his country with honor and distinction and has developed a
3 well-deserved reputation as a distinguished citizen, an
4 exceptional legislator, and a highly regarded advocate for victims
5 of child abuse, for the elderly, and, most notably, for peace
6 officers; and

7 WHEREAS, A native Texan, this esteemed public servant pursued
8 his higher education at The University of Texas at Austin and
9 continued his pursuit of academic excellence at Georgetown
10 University Law School; during his four years of law school, he
11 worked for Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and fellow
12 Texan Sam Rayburn and learned the value of truly representing the
13 concerns of one's constituents; and

14 WHEREAS, This distinguished veteran of World War II served in
15 the South Pacific theater as an Army Air Corps intelligence
16 officer, and his selfless patriotism earned him the Bronze Star and
17 four Battle Stars; following his military tenure, he was honorably
18 discharged as a major, and shortly thereafter he began an
19 unparalleled term of legislative service to his fellow Texans; and

20 WHEREAS, His 42 years of service as a legislator began in
21 1946, when he was first elected to the Texas House of
22 Representatives; he served three sessions as a state representative
23 before beginning a highly productive 10-year term in the Texas
24 Senate; he then was reelected to the house in 1968 and again in 1972

1 and proudly served there until his retirement a quarter-century
2 later; and

3 WHEREAS, Among the many accomplishments of his life in the
4 Texas Legislature are his service as president pro tempore of the
5 Texas Senate, dean of the Texas House of Representatives, and
6 governor of Texas for a day on August 13, 1961; his legislative
7 achievements are equally impressive and include authoring more than
8 100 bills, many of them promoting civil service protection for
9 peace officers; the passage of a constitutional amendment that
10 authorized the Veterans' Land Board to make low-interest loans
11 available to qualified veterans for the purchase of homes; and the
12 establishment of a trust fund for victims of child abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, His many contributions to the well-being of the Lone
14 Star State are evidenced by his recognition as an outstanding
15 legislator by a wide range of groups, including organizations of
16 teachers, women, police, firefighters, labor advocates, senior
17 citizens, veterans, and others too numerous to mention; and

18 WHEREAS, The 79th Annual Convention of the Department of
19 Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States passed
20 Resolution No. 1003 requesting that a bust of the Honorable Doyle
21 Willis be placed in the Capitol; and

22 WHEREAS, Such display would memorialize those veterans who
23 have been long-serving members of the Texas Legislature; having
24 served more than four decades in both chambers of the legislature
25 and 54 months in World War II, Doyle Willis exemplifies the true
26 meaning of citizenship and is best suited to represent those brave
27 men and women who have endured with honor the sacrifices of combat

1 and served with dignity as stewards of the voters' trust in the
2 legislature; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and many
4 former legislators and associations have privately funded a bronzed
5 bust of the Honorable Doyle Willis that would be most appropriate
6 for display in the extension wing of the Capitol; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby request that the State
10 Preservation Board accept the donation of a bronzed bust of the
11 Honorable Doyle Willis and permanently display the bust in a
12 prominent location in the extension wing of the Capitol; and, be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the house forward an
15 official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the
16 State Preservation Board.