

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas commemorates the life of Dalton L. James on the occasion of the dedication of the Dalton L. James DeSoto Independent School District Administration Building on October 12, 2003; and

WHEREAS, When Dalton James began his teaching career in DeSoto, the school building was in such bad repair that the state required it to be replaced; he played a major role in the construction of the new school that serves today as the district administration building; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James served as principal of the DeSoto school from 1935 to 1943, an era marked by the hardships of the Great Depression and World War II; the period required a strong leader, and he was successful in meeting the challenges he faced; and

WHEREAS, To keep DeSoto's elementary school open during the Depression, Dalton James took a school census by personally going from house to house to count the number of students; the final count exceeded the number required to keep the school open by one single student; while serving as principal, he also taught seventh and eighth grades, drove the school bus, acted as janitor, and mowed the grass at the school; and

WHEREAS, Emphasizing both high academic standards and physical exercise, Mr. James stressed a balanced school day; his commitment to a sound mathematics program resulted in DeSoto students winning the Number Sense competition in the Dallas County Interscholastic League Competition nearly every year during his tenure as principal; he allowed for extended

recess time when a game was tied, noting that playing and studying were both important parts of the school day; and

WHEREAS, Dalton James dedicated his life to education, and he was revered by the entire community for his commitment to the students in the district; during difficult times, he provided the leadership and the administrative skills to keep the school district operating; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby join the DeSoto Independent School District in celebrating the dedication of the Dalton L. James Administration Building and extend best wishes for a memorable occasion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the people of DeSoto as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 14, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate