

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 145

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Dr. Raymond T. "Prof" Bynum of  
2 Abilene on August 1, 2003, at the age of 96, has deeply saddened the  
3 family and many friends of this esteemed gentleman; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Arkansas, he was born on August 14, 1906,  
5 in Springdale, and pursued his schooling at Sterling City High  
6 School in Texas at age 16 and came to Abilene from Sterling City in  
7 1922 to enter Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons University); and

8           WHEREAS, Dr. Bynum began his teaching career after college  
9 when he was hired by the Abilene school system to teach Spanish; he  
10 soon volunteered to start the Abilene High School band that same  
11 year - the first high school marching band in Texas;

12           WHEREAS, He grew and expanded a 16-member boys band to a large  
13 marching band that won several accolades at University  
14 Interscholastic League competitions; during the same period he  
15 organized and implemented an all-city Honor Band comprised of  
16 Abilene elementary school students; also in 1938-1939 he directed  
17 the first All-Girls High School Band in Texas; and

18           WHEREAS, He accepted a new challenge in 1946 by taking a  
19 position offered by McMurry University President Harold G. Cooke to  
20 restart the McMurry Band which had disbanded at the beginning of  
21 World War II; with his direction the band performed numerous  
22 concert tours in Texas and New Mexico, performed in foreign  
23 countries such as Mexico, England, France, Italy, Switzerland and  
24 The Netherlands; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1959, "Friends of the [McMurry] Indian Band"  
2 raised money to build a state-of-the-art McMurry Band Hall, which  
3 was renamed the Bynum Band Hall when Dr. Bynum retired in 1972; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Raymond Bynum and the former Mary Catherine  
5 Admason began their journey as husband and wife in 1934, and the  
6 couple enjoyed a warm and fulfilling relationship until her passing  
7 in 1985; Dr. Bynum was blessed with four children - Ann, Raymond  
8 Jr., William F., and Sue, and as his family grew through the years,  
9 he took great pleasure in being a devoted father, grandfather, and  
10 great-grandfather; and

11           WHEREAS, This great man remained an active congregant of  
12 First Central Presbyterian Church serving as an elder; was a past  
13 president of the Texas Music Educators Association, Abilene Rotary  
14 Club, and Texas Band Master's Association; was a member of the  
15 American Band Master's Association; he was honored as Texas Band  
16 Master of the Year in 1968; and was in the hall of fame of Pi Beta  
17 Mu, national band directors fraternity; and

18           WHEREAS, Dr. Bynum's charm and vivacious personality  
19 delighted his large circle of students, band members, and admirers  
20 throughout his lifetime; some of his former students went on to  
21 become band directors at middle and high schools, one became the  
22 dean of the Julliard School of Music in New York City, and some  
23 became recognized band directors and administrators at some of the  
24 top universities in the nation; and

25           WHEREAS, Those who privileged to know Dr. Raymond Bynum will  
26 long miss his zest for life and generous spirit, and his memory will  
27 surely live on in the minds and hearts of the many people whose

1 lives he touched personally or through music; now, therefore, be it

2 WHEREAS, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Raymond T. "Prof"  
4 Bynum and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family and  
5 to all those who mourn the passing of this beloved man; and, be it  
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family as an expression of high regard from the  
9 Texas House of Representatives.