

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 270

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Wilton Turnerhill, of Abilene, has owned and
2 operated Turnerhill House of Bar-B-Que for 40 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Turnerhill has sold the restaurant to another
4 Abilene resident, Mr. Chris Young, to enter retirement from the
5 restaurant business at the age of 81 years old; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Turnerhill grew up as a youth in Rule, Texas, as
7 the son of a farmer and a homemaker and overcame at a young age a
8 severe case of rheumatic fever - an obstacle that taught him that he
9 could overcome his future struggles in life since he fought the
10 battle of overcoming the fever; and

11 WHEREAS, He moved to Abilene in 1939 where he gained
12 experience as a chef working for various catering and restaurant
13 businesses such as at the Westwood Club, at a local country club, at
14 McMurry University, and at Abilene Christian University; and

15 WHEREAS, He opened up the first location of his own
16 restaurant - the Turnerhill House of Bar-B-Que - in 1963 on Grape
17 Street in Abilene, but later was relocated to North 1st Street, and
18 then in to Treadaway Boulevard in 1980 - its current location; and

19 WHEREAS, The Turnerhill House of Bar-B-Que is famous for
20 serving delicious butter rolls along with pork ribs, barbecue, and
21 seafood favorites; the restaurant has served thousands of Abilene
22 and Texas residents along with former heavyweight champion George
23 Foreman, legendary blues musician B.B. King, and former United
24 States President Gerald Ford; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Turnerhill has been an exemplary example of
2 success to the community of Abilene through his entrepreneurship
3 and his leadership in the African-American community in which he
4 has been honored by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and the Abilene
5 chapter of the Texas Restaurant Association; he also is very
6 involved in his community where he has cooked Thanksgiving and
7 Christmas dinners for the homeless and barbecues for the Ben Richey
8 Boys Ranch; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor Wilton Turnerhill on his retirement as
11 owner of the Turnerhill House of Bar-B-Que after 40 years of
12 operation; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Mr. Turnerhill as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.