

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 154

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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, the elderly, and, most notably, peace officers; and

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

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

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

1 later; and

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

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

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

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

1 legislature; and

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

7 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 direct the State Preservation Board to accept the donation of a
9 bronzed bust of the Honorable Doyle Willis and to permanently
10 display the bust in a prominent location in the extension wing of
11 the Capitol; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
13 copy of this resolution to the executive director of the State
14 Preservation Board.