

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dalton Eugene Billings was a man of rare dedication
2 and integrity, and his passing on January 4, 2003, brought sadness
3 to the many people who respected and admired him; and

4 WHEREAS, A native Texan, Mr. Billings was born on September
5 27, 1917, in Buda; after graduating from Sam Houston High School in
6 Houston, he attended watchmaking school; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1938, this esteemed gentleman opened his own
8 watch repair and jewelry store in downtown Houston and dedicated
9 himself to building a successful business; incorporated in 1962,
10 Billings Jewelers has expanded to three locations and, with the
11 help of Mr. Billings's three sons, continues to serve the Houston
12 community today; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite his demanding professional life, Mr.
14 Billings always made time in his busy schedule to help his
15 community, serving as president of the West End Optimist Club and
16 board member of the Harris County Youth Scholarship Foundation; he
17 was a beloved figure in his town where, in addition to his many
18 other responsibilities, he was a master at the Woodland Masonic
19 Lodge, vice president of the Texas Jewelers Association, and a
20 member of St. Peter Lutheran Church; and

21 WHEREAS, In all aspects of his life, Dalton Billings set an
22 inspiring example of leadership and commitment to others; in one
23 telling moment of his life during the early 1960s, Mr. Billings
24 sought to treat a longtime employee, Delores Wilkerson, to lunch to

1 reward her for a recent success; when he was told she would be
2 denied admittance to her restaurant of choice based on the color of
3 her skin, he accompanied her to the restaurant, where they dined
4 together, an action which prompted a changed policy at that
5 cafeteria from that day forward; and

6 WHEREAS, Though he will be deeply missed by all who were
7 privileged to know him, his memory will long endure through the
8 lasting legacy of love and achievement that he leaves behind; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor the life of Dalton Eugene Billings and
12 extend deepest sympathy to his family: to his three sons, Donald,
13 David, and Dennis; to his four grandchildren and six
14 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and many friends;
15 and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dalton
19 Billings.

Riddle

H.R. No. 1262

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1262 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 19, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House