

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, With the close of the 79th Session, the Honorable Al  
2 Edwards will be ending his service in the Texas Legislature, having  
3 represented his Houston area constituents, and in fact all Texans,  
4 with integrity and distinction for 28 years; and

5           WHEREAS, A veteran of the civil rights movement who  
6 collaborated with Dr. Martin Luther King, the Reverend Jesse  
7 Jackson, and other leaders, Mr. Edwards has worked diligently to  
8 protect the gains won in that era and to honor the contributions  
9 made by African Americans and other minorities in Texas; in 1979,  
10 his first year of legislative service, he sponsored the bill that  
11 made June 19 a state holiday that commemorates Juneteenth--the date  
12 in 1865 when slaves in Texas were first notified of their  
13 emancipation--and has also carried out several nonlegislative  
14 activities in support of this event; moreover, Representative  
15 Edwards has been an important leader among the state's African  
16 American lawmakers, serving as chairman of the Texas Legislative  
17 Black Caucus from 1991 to 1997; and

18           WHEREAS, This veteran representative has been a key player on  
19 a number of important committees during his tenure; during the 79th  
20 Legislature, he was chair of Budget and Oversight for the Ways and  
21 Means Committee, served ably on the Appropriations Committee, and  
22 chaired the Rules and Resolutions Committee, a position he has held  
23 since 1991; in previous sessions, he was the chair of Budget and  
24 Oversight for the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and chair of

1 the House Joint Committee on Rail Passenger Service in Texas; in  
2 addition, Representative Edwards was a member of the Transportation  
3 Committee for 22 years and of the Urban Affairs Committee for seven  
4 terms; and

5 WHEREAS, A concerned and active citizen, Mr. Edwards has been  
6 involved in a variety of other initiatives addressing important  
7 national and international causes; he was chairman and vice  
8 chairman of the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus, served  
9 as Texas chairman for the 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns of  
10 the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and founded Operation Justus, a  
11 community-based referral service addressing social issues;  
12 furthermore, Mr. Edwards has not been reticent to return to the  
13 direct forms of protest he learned during the civil rights  
14 movement; in 1987 he was jailed for protesting the apartheid  
15 government of South Africa and in 2004 led a march in Waller County  
16 to bring attention to a voting rights issue; and

17 WHEREAS, His distinguished legislative service and civic  
18 activism have been duly honored with a wide range of awards and  
19 commendations; cited by *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who of Global  
20 Decision Makers*, Mr. Edwards has also been inducted into the  
21 African American Biographical Association Hall of Fame and is the  
22 recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Belize;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Having assumed many roles in his life, including  
25 those of social activist, religious minister, business person, and  
26 civic leader, Al Edwards has brought a vast range of experience to  
27 his legislative career, and his exemplary service has reflected an

1 ongoing effort to aid Texans in all walks of life and to create a  
2 state in which they can share in the benefits of freedom and  
3 prosperity; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
5 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend the Honorable Al  
6 Edwards for his notable service as a member of this legislative body  
7 and extend to him warmest best wishes for success and happiness in  
8 the future; and, be it further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Representative Edwards as an expression of high regard  
11 by his colleagues in the Texas House of Representatives.

Turner

Craddick	Gonzales	Menendez
Allen	Gonzalez Toureilles	Merritt
Alonzo	Goodman	Miller
Anchia	Goolsby	Moreno
Anderson	Griggs	Morrison
Bailey	Grusendorf	Mowery
Berman	Guillen	Naishtat
Blake	Haggerty	Nixon
Bohac	Hamilton	Noriega
Bonnen	Hamric	Oliveira
Branch	Hardcastle	Olivo
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Orr
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Hegar	Paxton
Callegari	Hernandez	Pena
Campbell	Herrero	Phillips
Casteel	Hilderbran	Pickett
Castro	Hill	Pitts
Chavez	Hochberg	Puente
Chisum	Hodge	Quintanilla
Coleman	Homer	Raymond
Cook of Navarro	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Colorado	Hopson	Riddle
Corte	Howard of Fort Bend	Ritter
Crabb	Howard of Travis	Rodriguez
Crownover	Hughes	Rose
Davis of Harris	Hunter	Seaman
Davis of Dallas	Hupp	Smith of Tarrant
Dawson	Isett	Smith of Harris
Delisi	Jackson	Smithee
Denny	Jones of Lubbock	Solis
Deshotel	Jones of Dallas	Solomons
Driver	Keel	Strama
Dukes	Keffer of Dallas	Straus
Dunnam	Keffer of Eastland	Swinford
Dutton	King of Parker	Talton
Eiland	King of Zavala	Taylor
Eissler	Kolkhorst	Thompson
Elkins	Krusee	Truitt
England	Kuempel	Turner
Escobar	Laney	Uresti
Farabee	Laubenberg	Van Arsdale
Farrar	Leibowitz	Veasey
Flores	Luna	Villarreal
Flynn	Madden	Vo
Frost	Martinez	West
Gallego	Martinez Fischer	Wong
Gattis	McCall	Woolley
Geren	McClendon	Zedler
Giddings	McReynolds	

H.R. No. 809

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 809 was adopted by the House on May 15, 2006, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House