

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 57

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the  
2 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, is an  
3 outstanding Texan who has rendered immeasurable service to the  
4 citizens of Texas and the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, Nominated by President George W. Bush, Secretary  
6 Jackson was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as  
7 the nation's 13th Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on  
8 March 31, 2004; with that appointment, he inherited an enormous  
9 challenge as the president set a goal two years ago for the creation  
10 of 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of the decade;  
11 Secretary Jackson has boldly risen to that challenge and, to date,  
12 there has been a net increase of 2.2 million minority homeowners in  
13 the country, which represents a remarkable 40 percent of the  
14 president's goal; and

15           WHEREAS, Under Secretary Jackson's leadership, sales of new  
16 single-family homes in the United States have set a record with 1.2  
17 million sales in 2004, a nine percent increase above the record set  
18 the previous year; a new national homeownership record was also set  
19 in 2004, with 69 percent of American families owning their own  
20 homes; moreover, minority homeownership set a record annual rate of  
21 51 percent, which translated into more than 15.5 million minority  
22 homeowners; and

23           WHEREAS, Alphonso Jackson witnessed firsthand the struggles  
24 of urban Americans, growing up the youngest in a family of 12

1 children in Dallas; later, he set out to help other families in need  
2 when he served as president and chief executive officer of the  
3 Housing Authority of the City of Dallas; during his tenure there  
4 from 1989 to 1996, that agency was consistently ranked as one of the  
5 best-managed large city housing agencies in the country; he has  
6 also worked as a senior administrator of housing agencies in St.  
7 Louis and Washington, D.C., and is an experienced executive in both  
8 the public and private sectors; immediately preceding his  
9 appointment at HUD, Secretary Jackson served as president of  
10 America Electric Power-TEXAS, a \$13 billion utility company located  
11 in Austin; and

12 WHEREAS, Secretary Jackson has shared his expertise on public  
13 housing and urban issues with a number of state and national  
14 entities, including the General Services Commission of the State of  
15 Texas, which he served as chair; he has also served on the National  
16 Commission of America's Urban Families, the National Commission on  
17 Severely Distressed Public Housing, and numerous nonprofit and  
18 corporate boards; and

19 WHEREAS, Described by President Bush as a man of great  
20 integrity and compassion, Secretary Jackson has worked tirelessly  
21 during his tenure as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to  
22 facilitate the goal of home ownership for more Americans,  
23 particularly minorities; a firm supporter of the belief that we  
24 best serve our neighbors in need by empowering them to pursue their  
25 dreams, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the  
26 lives of all Americans and truly represents the very best in  
27 government service; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2 hereby recognize the Honorable Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the  
3 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, for his  
4 innumerable contributions to the people of this state and nation  
5 and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success with his  
6 important work; and, be it further

7           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for Secretary Jackson as an expression of high regard by  
9 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.