

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives takes great
2 pleasure in honoring North's Funeral Home on the celebration of its
3 100th year of business; and

4 WHEREAS, North's Funeral Home began as a funeral home
5 operated by Mr. Dan T. Laughter in 1905 as he became one of the first
6 licensed funeral directors between Fort Worth and El Paso and
7 guided the funeral home into a business success using a horse-drawn
8 hearse that served many towns in the Big Country region; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Laughter opened the first funeral home on
10 Sycamore Street and later moved it to its current location at North
11 Third and Orange Streets, which he operated from until 1945 when he
12 personally selected Mr. and Mrs. Russell W. North as his
13 successors; and

14 WHEREAS, Russell and Willena North were both licensed funeral
15 directors, and at the time Mrs. North was one of the first ladies to
16 be a licensed funeral director and Mr. North had been educated on
17 the art of embalming in St. Louis; and

18 WHEREAS, The Norths built the first funeral chapel in Abilene
19 in 1948 and began operating an ambulance service, with the addition
20 of air ambulance/hearse added later with their sons as pilots, and
21 two of their sons also became licensed morticians; and

22 WHEREAS, One of the Norths' sons, Jack North, has worked for
23 the family funeral home business since 1967, and Jack became the
24 director of the funeral home in 1979 after the death of his father,

1 Mr. Russell North; and

2 WHEREAS, Jack North and his wife, Sandie, have become leaders
3 in the Abilene community with Mr. North having an extensive
4 knowledge of the history of Abilene, and he is the author of two
5 books, one of which is a comedic book regarding growing up in the
6 funeral home business; and

7 WHEREAS, Jack and Sandie North continue to serve the citizens
8 of Abilene well with the operation of the funeral home and sincere
9 assistance to the families that have loved ones that are brought to
10 North's Funeral Home; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend North's Funeral Home for its 100th year
13 of operation and Jack and Sandie North for their successful
14 operation of the business and their service to the Abilene
15 community; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for North's Funeral Home as an expression of high regard
18 from the Texas House of Representatives.

Hunter

H.R. No. 160

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 160 was adopted by the House on
February 2, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House