

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 160

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 North's built the first funeral chapel in
19 Abilene in 1948 and began operating an ambulance service, with the
20 addition of air ambulance/hearse were added later with their sons
21 as pilots, which two of their sons also became licensed morticians;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, one of the North's sons, Jack North, has worked for
24 the family funeral home business since 1967, and Jack became the

1 director of the funeral home in 1979 after the death of his father,
2 Mr. Russell; and

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

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

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commend North's funeral home for its 100th year
14 of operation and to Jack and Sandie North for their successful
15 operation of the business and their service to the Abilene
16 community; and, be it further

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