

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 750

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The retirement of Dr. Gerald Mann as senior pastor
2 of Riverbend Church in Austin provides an apt occasion to recognize
3 this renowned minister's myriad contributions to his faith
4 community; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of West Columbia, Dr. Mann earned his
6 bachelor's degree in religion at the University of Corpus Christi
7 while preaching at the First Baptist Church of Schulenburg, and he
8 later garnered his master's in theology and his doctorate in
9 philosophy from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and

10 WHEREAS, Following the completion of his education, Dr. Mann
11 served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Hereford, before moving
12 to Austin to minister at University Baptist Church; and

13 WHEREAS, This talented and dynamic public speaker soon
14 accepted a new role that would earn him statewide recognition;
15 named chaplain of the Texas Legislature, he ably served the House of
16 Representatives from 1975 to 1995 and the Senate from 1976 to 1996;
17 famous for his unique sense of humor that permeated his opening
18 "one-line zinger" prayers, Dr. Mann earned a dedicated following of
19 legislators and Capitol visitors alike; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Mann began his own church in 1979 with 60
21 committed members and a land grant in West Austin; through the
22 ensuing years, the congregation at Riverbend Church grew steadily,
23 and today more than 8,000 area residents attend regularly to hear
24 Dr. Mann's entertaining and inspiring sermons; in order to reach an

1 even wider audience, Dr. Mann's services were televised in the
2 Capital City and later syndicated internationally, reaching more
3 than 70 million homes; and

4 WHEREAS, The author of 11 books, the eminently quotable Dr.
5 Mann has been cited by a host of respected news sources, including
6 *Newsweek*, *NBC Nightly News*, and *The Wall Street Journal*; moreover,
7 he was recently named one of the most effective preachers in the
8 English-speaking world; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Mann's untiring efforts and rousing sermons
10 reflect an uncompromising commitment to making faith work in
11 everyday life, and it is a pleasure to join in celebrating his
12 outstanding record of achievement; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Gerald Mann on his retirement
15 as senior pastor of Riverbend Church and commend him for his years
16 of dedicated service to the Austin community; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Dr. Mann as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.