

By: Leibowitz

H.R. No. 939

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life came to an end with the
2 passing of James Alvin Kelley on March 1, 2005, at the age of 96; and

3 WHEREAS, Born on January 11, 1909, in Marlow, Oklahoma, Mr.
4 Kelley graduated from Gatlin High School in 1926 and three years
5 later married his high school sweetheart, Myrtle Webb; in 1930, the
6 devoted couple became the parents of a cherished daughter, Wilma;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley began his teaching career at the age of 18
9 and earned a bachelor of science degree in 1934; he taught and
10 served as principal at rural Oklahoma schools until 1942, when he
11 interrupted his career to serve in the border patrol and the U.S.
12 Army during World War II; after leaving the army in 1946, he
13 operated grocery and school stores in South San Antonio; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning to teaching in 1950, Mr. Kelley became the
15 first principal of Price Elementary and the new South San Antonio
16 High School, and he also held that post at Royalgate Elementary; a
17 lifelong learner, he earned a master's degree in education from
18 Trinity University in 1955, and his career went on to encompass
19 teaching special education at Travis Junior High School in Port
20 Lavaca until his retirement in 1974; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley made numerous contributions to his
22 community and profession over the course of his lifetime through
23 his active participation in such notable groups as the Optimist
24 Club, Phi Delta Kappa, the Parent Teacher Association, and the

1 Texas State Teachers Association; and

2 WHEREAS, An ordained Baptist deacon since the age of 18, Mr.
3 Kelley dedicated much of his time to serving his community of faith
4 through the years; involved in local mission work and teaching
5 religious education, he was also widely admired as a lay preacher
6 and was often called on to speak at church and other events in the
7 area; and

8 WHEREAS, This distinguished educator and devoted family man
9 leaves behind a legacy of good works, and he will not soon be
10 forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James Alvin Kelley and
14 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
15 grandchildren and their spouses, Edie and Tim Scheffel, Kelley and
16 Tommy Bell, and James and Janeil McCrury; to his
17 great-grandchildren, Erin Scheffel, Travis Lyons, Paul Scheffel,
18 Jason Bell and his wife, Gretchen, Kristen Bell, and Kayla,
19 Chandler, and Mason McCrury; to his siblings and their spouses,
20 Thurman and Hazel Kelley, Ruby Siever, and Leola and Jim Ragland;
21 and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James Alvin
25 Kelley.