

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Robert O. Dawson, who died at his
2 home in Fentress on February 26, 2005, the State of Texas has lost a
3 gifted educator, scholar, and much-loved mentor whose influence
4 will resonate in the law and in the lives of those fortunate enough
5 to have known him; and

6 WHEREAS, A graduate of the University of Missouri, Professor
7 Dawson earned his doctor of jurisprudence degree from Washington
8 University and his doctor of judicial science degree from the
9 University of Wisconsin and worked as both a public defender and a
10 prosecutor in addition to his career as a professor; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1967 he began teaching at The University of
12 Texas, where he held the Bryant Smith Chair in Law, and his long and
13 mutually fruitful relationship with the university was to
14 profoundly affect the many students who benefited from his
15 extensive knowledge and genuine investment in their education;
16 shortly before his death, he was voted Outstanding Faculty Member
17 for 2004-2005 by the UT Student Bar Association; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Dawson's lasting impact on Texas law derives not
19 only from those students whose development he helped to guide but
20 also from his drafting of the state's juvenile justice statutes in
21 1973 and their 1995 revision, which produced an influential body of
22 law that focused on rehabilitating young offenders and made the
23 state's juvenile justice system a model for other states to follow;
24 a renowned expert on juvenile law, he served as the juvenile law

1 editor of the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section Newsletter from
2 1967 until 1987, when the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar was
3 created, and he became editor of the State Bar of Texas Juvenile Law
4 Section Newsletter; moreover, he authored and coauthored numerous
5 publications on criminal procedure and juvenile law and shared his
6 expertise with probation officers and attorneys throughout the
7 state; and

8 WHEREAS, His real-world experience with criminal law imbued
9 him with a keen understanding of the legal system's effect on the
10 lives of average people, and he sought to ground his students in a
11 practical awareness of the law's workings by cofounding The
12 University of Texas Law School Criminal Defense Clinic, which he
13 led as director for 24 years; in that capacity, he and his fellow
14 supervisors worked with more than 1,200 third-year law students in
15 handling over 7,200 criminal defendants' cases; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Dawson was also instrumental in founding the
17 school's Actual Innocence Clinic, enabling law students to screen
18 and assist inmates who were wrongly convicted, and the clinic's
19 groundbreaking work was recognized with a Public Interest Award
20 from the Texas Law Fellowships in February 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, An avid horseman, he was one of the nation's leading
22 experts on equine law and taught a class on the subject with his
23 wife, Jan; appropriately, Dr. Dawson's ashes will be mixed with old
24 horse stall bedding and scattered on the farm that he and his wife
25 shared, which he noted would serve to enrich the hay crop; and

26 WHEREAS, This unique request is a highly appropriate
27 conclusion to Dr. Dawson's life, both in its gentle

1 unpretentiousness and in its humble acknowledgment that the fruits
2 of our labors continue to nourish the world long after we have left
3 it; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor the life of Dr. Robert O. Dawson and extend
6 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Jan
7 Dawson; to his daughters, Katherine Irene Dawson and Julie Ann
8 Gerrow; to his brother, William Dawson; to his niece, Diana Dawson;
9 to his nephew, Greg Dawson; and to his other family members and many
10 friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
13 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
14 Professor Robert O. Dawson.

Dutton

Craddick	Geren	Menendez
Allen of Harris	Giddings	Merritt
Allen of Dallas	Gonzales	Miller
Alonzo	Gonzalez Toureilles	Moreno of Harris
Anchia	Goodman	Moreno of El Paso
Anderson	Goolsby	Morrison
Bailey	Griggs	Mowery
Baxter	Grusendorf	Naishtat
Berman	Guillen	Nixon
Blake	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hamric	Olivo
Branch	Hardcastle	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Paxton
Burnam	Hegar	Pena
Callegari	Herrero	Phillips
Campbell	Hilderbran	Pickett
Casteel	Hill	Pitts
Castro	Hochberg	Puente
Chavez	Hodge	Quintanilla
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Coleman	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Ritter
Corte	Hughes	Rodriguez
Crabb	Hunter	Rose
Crownover	Hupp	Seaman
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	Jackson	Smith of Harris
Dawson	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Denny	Keel	Solomons
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Strama
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Straus
Dukes	King of Parker	Swinford
Dunnam	King of Zavala	Talton
Dutton	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Edwards	Krusee	Thompson
Eiland	Kuempel	Truitt
Eissler	Laney	Turner
Elkins	Laubenberg	Uresti
Escobar	Leibowitz	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Luna	Veasey
Farrar	Madden	Villarreal
Flores	Martinez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez Fischer	West
Frost	McCall	Wong
Gallego	McClendon	Woolley
Gattis	McReynolds	Zedler

H.R. No. 958

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 958 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 31, 2005.

Chief Clerk of the House