

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1760

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of acclaimed Dallas artist Arthello
2 Beck, Jr., on November 5, 2004, at the age of 63, has brought a
3 profound loss to the family, friends, and many admirers of this
4 esteemed Texan; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on July 17, 1941, Mr. Beck devoted his
6 life to honoring his cultural heritage by capturing on canvas the
7 essence of African American life in the Southwest; his impressive
8 body of work also includes landscapes, portraits, and other images
9 inspired by his travels in Jamaica, England, West Africa, Egypt,
10 Brazil, and Central America; working in oil, watercolor, pencil,
11 and charcoal, he depicted his own personal evolution as well as the
12 historical and religious experiences of the African American
13 community; and

14 WHEREAS, This largely self-taught painter received his only
15 formal art training at Lincoln High School; he continued his art
16 education by searching the library for art books during his breaks
17 at various clerical and janitorial jobs at department stores and
18 the post office; and

19 WHEREAS, His paintings and drawings have hung in museums,
20 galleries, and universities in the United States and abroad, and he
21 received an array of prestigious awards and honors throughout his
22 career, including his appointment as an ambassador of goodwill by
23 Governor Mark White in 1985; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Beck gave of himself not only through his

1 artwork but also through his service; the former
2 artist-in-residence at both the Interdenominational Theological
3 Center in Atlanta and Paul Quinn College, he worked with patients at
4 the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center and
5 shared his passion for art as a teacher at a number of schools,
6 including Mountain View College; moreover, he provided a
7 much-needed venue where area African American artists could exhibit
8 their work by founding the Arthello Beck Gallery in Oak Cliff; a
9 member of the National Conference of Artists and the Southwest
10 Alliance of African American Artists, he was also one of the
11 original founders of the Southwest Black Artists Guild; and

12 WHEREAS, Arthello Beck was a man of tremendous talent, and
13 although his presence will indeed be greatly missed, his spirit
14 will live on in the memories of the many people fortunate enough to
15 have known him and in the inspiring works that he leaves behind;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Arthello
19 Beck, Jr., and extend deepest sympathy to his family: to his wife,
20 Mae Beck; to his daughter, Mashariki Beck Okpiabhele; to his three
21 grandchildren; and to all who mourn the passing of this gifted man;
22 and, be it further

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