

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 1797

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An 80th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly cause
2 for celebration, and on May 11, 2005, John Phillips Gayle, Jr., of
3 West Columbia marked this significant milestone in his long and
4 productive life; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gayle is closely tied to the beginnings of this
6 great state as he is a direct descendant of Emily Austin Bryan, the
7 daughter of Moses Austin and sister of Stephen F. Austin; born in
8 Brazoria County to John Phillips Gayle, Sr., and Lavinia Brock
9 Gayle, he has lived in the place "where Texas began" all his life;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, He married the love of his life, the late Doris
12 Fussell Gayle, on April 25, 1944, and their rewarding marriage was
13 richly blessed with three children, Lavinia Gayle Sartwelle, the
14 late John Benton Gayle, and Regina Gayle Locke, along with six
15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and his devotion to his
16 loving family has always been paramount to him; and

17 WHEREAS, A lifelong rancher of Brahman and Brahman crossbred
18 cattle, he also farmed rice for several years and worked with the
19 Texas Department of Agriculture as a livestock export specialist;
20 he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to serve on the ASCS
21 Committee for Texas before serving admirably as a county
22 commissioner of Brazoria County for 24 years; he also served as a
23 member and president of the South Texas County Judges and
24 Commissioners Association Board; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gayle is keenly interested in the history of his
2 community and was extensively involved in the restoration of the
3 first capitol of Texas in West Columbia; he played a key role in
4 securing a historical marker for the actual location where Stephen
5 F. Austin died and worked tirelessly for a monument for servicemen
6 from West Columbia who served their country during times of war; and

7 WHEREAS, He is a great supporter of the Columbia EMS and
8 Columbia Cemetery Association and has been a benefactor to almost
9 every civic group in the city, devoting both financial and personal
10 support to benefit the people of this area of the Lone Star State;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, John Phillips Gayle, Jr., has
13 made a positive impact on his community; he is an inspiration to
14 those who have known him, and it is a distinct pleasure to join his
15 loving family and many friends as they gather to honor this devoted
16 Texan in West Columbia on May 21, 2005; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
18 Legislature hereby warmly congratulate John Phillips Gayle, Jr., on
19 the momentous occasion of his 80th birthday and extend to him
20 heartfelt best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Gayle as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.