

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to extend congratulations to the owner and staff of North's Funeral Home of Abilene on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, North's Funeral Home was established by Dan T. Laughter in 1905; one of the first licensed funeral directors to operate between Fort Worth and El Paso, he began his business by using a horse-drawn hearse to serve the towns and communities spread throughout the Big Country region; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1945, Mr. Laughter entrusted the responsibility for this respected Abilene business to Russell and Willena North; Mr. North had been educated in the art of embalming in Saint Louis, Missouri, and he and Mrs. North were both licensed funeral directors; and

**WHEREAS**, North's Funeral Home has served Abilene in many capacities through the years; in 1948, Mr. and Mrs. North built the first funeral chapel in Abilene and began operating an ambulance service; they later added an air ambulance service, and their sons served as their pilots; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, every member of the North family has served in the business; following Russell North's death, his son James R. North, who retired in 1988, served as a funeral director; his other son, Jack E. North, who joined the family business in 1967, is the current owner and funeral director in charge; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. North and the staff of North's Funeral Home are noted for the extensive personal attention they give to each

of the families they serve and for operating under the motto "Service Beyond Self"; and

**WHEREAS**, North's Funeral Home has proudly maintained its status as a home-owned business in an age when major corporations are buying out many local businesses; in 1997, it received the Small Business Salute from the Abilene Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Jack North and his wife, Sandie, are highly respected leaders in the Abilene community; Mr. North has extensive knowledge of Abilene's history and has authored two books; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby congratulate all associated with North's Funeral Home on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for North's Funeral Home in honor of its 100th year of service.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 21, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate