

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 595

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. Gerald Mann, who is retiring after 26 years of outstanding service as senior pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Well known throughout our state and nation as a minister, humorist, writer, and public speaker, Dr. Gerald Mann has had an impact on the lives of countless Christians and has long been a source of inspiration and joy to his congregation and his many followers; and

WHEREAS, A native of West Columbia, Texas, Dr. Mann holds a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Corpus Christi; he earned a master's degree in theology and a doctoral degree in philosophy from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Upon completing his education, Dr. Mann served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Hereford; he then moved to Austin to minister at the University Baptist Church, and he has called Austin his home ever since; and

WHEREAS, Soon recognized for his talent, vitality, and quick wit, Dr. Mann was called to fulfill a role that would earn him statewide admiration--he was named chaplain of the Texas Legislature, where his distinctive opening one-line "zinger" prayers earned him a devoted following of legislators and Capitol visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, With a dream, a purpose, and 60 determined members, Dr. Mann established the Riverbend Baptist Church in 1979; through the years, the congregation grew rapidly, and today, more than 8,000 people regularly attend the church to hear his sermons every week; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mann's services have been televised locally, and in recognition of his unique approach to making faith relevant to everyday life, the Odyssey Network broadcasts "Real Life with Dr. Gerald Mann" nationwide, reaching approximately 80 million homes; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mann is the author of a number of popular books, including *The Seven Deadly Virtues*, *Common Sense Religion*, and *When One Day at a Time is Too Long*, and has been cited by such respected news sources as *Newsweek* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mann is famous as a voice for common sense Christianity and is much beloved and greatly admired by citizens across our state and nation; his presence as senior pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church will be greatly missed by all who attend its services and by his colleagues in the ministry; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas,
79th Legislature, hereby commend Dr. Gerald Mann for his many
years of service to his congregation and to the State of Texas
and extend to him best wishes for the retirement years ahead;
and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for
him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on April 12, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate