

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 938

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Kelley, Sr., on the occasion of the dedication of the Claybar Kelley-Watkins Funeral Home chapel, which is being named in their honor on June 5, 2005; and

WHEREAS, As the owners of the Kelley-Hixson Funeral Home in Beaumont, Charles and Doris Kelley served families throughout Southeast Texas with dignity and compassion and set high standards for integrity and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Charles Kelley was born in Detroit, grew up in Arkansas, and moved to San Antonio at the age of 20; after serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he was offered a position with the Hixson family of Lake Charles, Louisiana, to work in their funeral home with a promise that if he liked the business, they would buy another funeral home and make him a managing partner; and

WHEREAS, Doris Weisiger was born in San Antonio and married Charles in 1942 in the First Baptist Church, where she was a secretary; after raising the couple's five children, she worked with her husband in the funeral business; and

WHEREAS, The Hixson family bought Roberts Undertaking Company and the Pipkin-Brulin Funeral Home, merging two of Beaumont's finest funeral homes, and Charles was made managing partner of the Roberts and Pipkin-Brulin Funeral Home; it became Kelley-Hixson Funeral Home in 1962, and three years later, Charles became the sole owner; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his years of funeral home service to the residents of the Golden Triangle, Charles demonstrated a compassionate and caring manner that brought solace to many, and his ingenuity and creativity in business earned him the respect of his peers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley retired in 1991 and sold their business to Frank Watkins, who then sold the business to the Claybar family of Orange, Texas; the Claybar family has continued the tradition of family-operated service; and

WHEREAS, Charles and Doris were very involved members of the First Baptist Church in Beaumont for over a half century, and they were both active in numerous community organizations; they were exemplary residents of Southeast Texas and are now residents of New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, The many contributions Charles and Doris Kelley made to the community and the example they set as owners of the Kelley-Hixson Funeral Home will long be remembered by the citizens of the Golden Triangle, and the dedication of the Charles S. Kelley Chapel is an excellent opportunity to honor this distinguished couple; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas,
79th Legislature, hereby commend Charles and Doris Kelley for
their services to the citizens of Southeast Texas and extend to
them best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Williams

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on May 18, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate