

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 49

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and
2 meaningful accomplishments may bring comfort to the many
3 individuals who are mourning the loss of Denton civic leader L. A.
4 Nelson, Jr., who passed away on June 14, 2006, at the age of 80; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Lucy Bernice Wilson and Luther Aldrich
6 Nelson, Sr., L. A. Nelson was born in Hugo, Oklahoma, on April 5,
7 1926; following his graduation from the local high school, he
8 served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman attended North Texas State
10 Teachers College, now the University of North Texas, from 1946 to
11 1948 and then transferred to the University of Oklahoma; recalled
12 to active naval duty in 1950, he served for 17 months during the
13 Korean War before returning to school; he completed a degree in
14 marketing at OU in 1952 and subsequently earned a law degree from
15 The University of Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson devoted much of his time and talents to
17 his beloved community; he served on the Denton City Council from
18 1966 to 1970, and again in 1974; in 1969, the council appointed him
19 mayor, a position he held until 1970; among his many notable
20 contributions, he supported the creation of Ray Roberts Lake, one
21 of two lakes from which the city gets its drinking water; and

22 WHEREAS, A past president of the Denton Chamber of Commerce,
23 Mr. Nelson further lent his time to serve on the Flow Memorial
24 Hospital Board of Managers; he was also a leader in his chosen

1 profession, and his peers paid tribute to his legal acumen when they
2 elected him president of the Denton County Bar Association in 1959;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Combining his passion for sporting events at the
5 University of North Texas with his organizational talent and
6 energy, Mr. Nelson was tremendously successful in raising funds for
7 the university's athletic programs; his unflagging support was also
8 demonstrated on the sidelines on game day and at every Mean Green
9 Club meeting; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson was a devoted family man who derived
11 great joy from spending time with his loved ones; together with his
12 wife, Martha, he was the parent of six treasured children, Nancy,
13 Michael, Susan, Marcella, Carey Currin, and the late Luther Aldrich
14 Nelson III; and

15 WHEREAS, Admired by many for his wit and wisdom, L. A. Nelson,
16 Jr., benefited countless people over the course of his lifetime as a
17 strong advocate for legal clients and friends, as well as for the
18 greater community; and

19 WHEREAS, Although he is deeply missed, Mr. Nelson's family
20 and friends may take comfort from the fact that his was truly a life
21 well lived, and his radiant spirit will continue to shine brightly
22 in the hearts of all those who were privileged to share his love and
23 friendship; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of L. A. Nelson, Jr., and
26 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
27 Martha Len Nelson; to his children, Nancy Black, Michael Nelson,

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1 Susan Wright, Marcella Butler, and Carey Currin; to his eight
2 grandchildren and his great-granddaughter; to his brother, Dr. R.
3 John Nelson; to his sister, Sue Wortz; and to his other relatives
4 and many friends; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
7 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of L. A.
8 Nelson, Jr.