

By: McCall

H.R. No. 248

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Benjamin F. Thomas on January
2 17, 2007, the people of Plano have lost a beloved community leader,
3 and we join them in mourning their loss; and

4 WHEREAS, Well known for his kind demeanor and his strong
5 convictions, Mr. Thomas was a dedicated advocate for Plano's
6 historic Douglass Community, and his active involvement in civic
7 planning helped that neighborhood maintain its integrity as a
8 thriving community while contributing to the thoughtful
9 revitalization of downtown; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas served on numerous boards, committees,
11 organizations, and task forces; he assisted in the establishment of
12 the Douglass Community Center, worked to secure a historical marker
13 for the Douglass Community cemetery, and, with the help of his
14 daughters, commissioned a mural celebrating the vital
15 contributions of the Douglass Community; he was also a valued
16 congregant of Shiloh Baptist Church, serving as a deacon, choir
17 member, Sunday school teacher, and executive committee officer; and

18 WHEREAS, His community efforts earned Mr. Thomas many
19 accolades; named one of PISD's One Hundred Heroes, he was
20 recognized with a Meritorious Citizen Award from the Plano Chamber
21 of Commerce and received the first Plano YMCA Strong Community
22 Award, and in 2001 a local gymnasium was named in his honor; and

23 WHEREAS, Retired from a 21-year tenure with Rockwell
24 International, Mr. Thomas was a charter member of the National

1 Management Association; he shared more than six decades of marriage
2 with his wife, Frances, and was blessed with four children, seven
3 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild; and

4 WHEREAS, The true character of a city is defined not by the
5 height of its buildings or the breadth of its streets but by the
6 individuals who help to shape the richness of its everyday
7 existence, and in giving freely of himself in behalf of the greater
8 good, Ben Thomas gained the lasting friendship and admiration of
9 countless residents of Plano; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Benjamin F. Thomas and
12 extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
13 Frances; to his children, Mitchell, Toni, Dollie, and Areail; to
14 his grandchildren, Cealee, Justin, Derrick and his wife Kacey,
15 Vernon, Veronica, Elliott, and Elias; to his great-grandchild,
16 Zaeria; to his brother, James L. Thomas II; to his sisters, Norma
17 Williams and her husband Jack, Betty Henderson, Peggy Young, and
18 Dorothy Lee Ellis; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Benjamin F.
23 Thomas.