

By: Pierson

H.R. No. 451

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, on February 24, 2007, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
2 North Texas celebrated its 80th anniversary;

3 WHEREAS, because of the dream of Ms. Jessie A. White, a young
4 probation officer of the Dallas Juvenile Court, who was distraught
5 at the future that awaited the boys filing through the court system,
6 a new organization was formed in Dallas, Texas;

7 WHEREAS, Ms. White believed that the boys passing through the
8 Juvenile Courts needed a friend that each boy could count on, who
9 can give him the feeling that someone is especially interested in
10 him;

11 WHEREAS, the Reverend J.J. Burnett, a Methodist minister,
12 became the first president of the Dallas Big Brothers and was joined
13 by 75 Dallas businessmen who had stepped forward as Big Brothers to
14 boys throughout the city;

15 WHEREAS, in 1932, the County Boys' Parental Home and School
16 was opened to provide a home to boys convicted through the Juvenile
17 Courts but not meeting the requirements for reform school, and in
18 1939, Camp Tammi Babi (Comanche words for Little Brother) opened in
19 Cedar Hill to provide Little Brothers a structured summer
20 environment away from the busy city;

21 WHEREAS, the Melba Theatre on Elm Street in Dallas hosted
22 Saturday morning Big Brother programs which featured visits by
23 Popeye the Sailor and Baby Rose Marie, and motion pictures
24 including "Joe Palooka" featuring Jimmy Durante and "The Lone

1 Cowboy" featuring Jackie Cooper;

2 WHEREAS, of the boys and men involved with the organization
3 in early 1942, approximately 100 Big Brothers and 64 Little
4 Brothers were reported on active military duty by the end of that
5 year;

6 WHEREAS, as the Dallas agency continued to expand, other
7 regions around the city launched their own agencies to serve the
8 youth of their communities: Fort Worth initiated their Big Brothers
9 program in 1939, Arlington in 1969, Denton County in 1975, Paris in
10 1978, and Grayson County in 1996; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2003, through the leadership of newly appointed
12 CEO Charles Pierson and the separate boards of Arlington &
13 Mansfield, Dallas and Fort Worth, the creation of Big Brothers Big
14 Sisters of North Texas was accomplished.

15 RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorates Big Brothers Big Sisters of North
17 Texas' 80th anniversary; and recognizes and celebrates the
18 contributions of Big Brothers Big Sisters North Texas to the people
19 of North Texas.

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for Big
21 Brothers Big Sisters North Texas as an expression of high regard by
22 the Texas House of Representatives.