

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 752

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A legendary athlete who has embraced a second career
2 as a spiritual leader, Pastor George Foreman is being honored for 30
3 years of inspired evangelistic service with a special celebration
4 on March 17, 2007, in Houston; and

5 WHEREAS, Ordained in 1977, George Foreman is well known for
6 twice winning the world heavyweight boxing championship, yet it is
7 in his role as pastor that he has had a most profound effect on his
8 community; and

9 WHEREAS, Born in Marshall on January 10, 1949, George Foreman
10 won an Olympic gold medal in 1968 and then claimed the world
11 heavyweight title in 1973 by defeating Smokin' Joe Frazier; after
12 losing the crown to Muhammad Ali the following year in the epic
13 "Rumble in the Jungle," the former champ retired from the ring in
14 1978 after experiencing a spiritual conversion; he later became the
15 pastor of the Church of Lord Jesus Christ in Houston, where he still
16 preaches today, and also founded the George Foreman Youth and
17 Community Center to aid local residents; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Foreman's unprecedented boxing comeback at
19 the age of 37 reintroduced the heavyweight to the world as a changed
20 man with a jovial presence in the ring; in 1994, at the age of 45, he
21 shocked boxing fans everywhere by regaining the heavyweight title
22 with a knockout victory over Michael Moorer more than two decades
23 after claiming his first world title; and

24 WHEREAS, Despite his dramatic return to the top of the boxing

1 world and his fame as the promoter of the George Foreman grill,
2 Pastor Foreman has remained true to his spiritual ideals and his
3 fellow congregants at the Church of Lord Jesus Christ, and his
4 ability to impact the lives of others from the pulpit has proved as
5 inspirational and effective as his accomplishments inside the
6 boxing ring; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend George Foreman for his 30 years of
9 evangelical service and extend best wishes to him for many more
10 years of success in that endeavor; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Pastor Foreman as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.