

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Austin and the State of Texas lost an
2 important advocate for social justice with the passing of Wallace
3 Gordon Ellinger on February 14, 2007, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, A Missouri native, Wally Ellinger was born on August
5 24, 1918, in Webster Groves; he served his country as a member of
6 the U.S. Air Force during World War II and went on to earn a degree
7 in philosophy from Conception College in 1949; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1953, Mr. Ellinger graduated from Kenrick
9 Seminary in St. Louis and was ordained as a priest of the Roman
10 Catholic Church; over the next two decades, he met the spiritual
11 needs of his parishioners, served as superintendent of four
12 schools, and championed social justice and human welfare through
13 his active participation with several committees and programs; and

14 WHEREAS, After receiving a papal dispensation, Mr. Ellinger
15 left the priesthood; he married his brother's widow, Ruth Hunter
16 Ellinger, and this union found him accepting new responsibilities
17 as the stepfather of 12 children; the couple were well-known Austin
18 Democrats, and their home was a center for like-minded individuals
19 dedicated to social and welfare initiatives; and

20 WHEREAS, Employed by the Texas Comptroller's Office for many
21 years, Mr. Ellinger was best known by the general public for his
22 vehement opposition to capital punishment and brutality; he was
23 affiliated with Texas Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants
24 for 16 years, including seven as that organization's executive

1 director, and he continued to reach out to ex-offenders throughout
2 his life; furthermore, he was often heard voicing opposition to
3 public bonds for funding prison construction and advocating
4 alternative forms of punishment; and

5 WHEREAS, Many groups benefited from the participation of
6 Mr. Ellinger, including the West Austin Democrats, the Texas
7 AFL-CIO COPE Council, Austin Groups for the Elderly, and AMBIS, a
8 nonprofit organization providing low-cost funeral and memorial
9 services; during his years in the priesthood, he was equally active
10 as he endeavored to aid the downtrodden and disenfranchised by
11 helping to establish credit unions and legal-aid services for
12 marginalized citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, Wally Ellinger found happiness in helping others,
14 and although the loss of his mortal presence has left a void in the
15 lives of those who knew and loved him, his legacy as a spiritual
16 mentor, civic leader, human rights advocate, and loving husband and
17 father ensures that he will not be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and achievements of
20 Wallace Gordon Ellinger and extend deepest sympathy to the members
21 of his family: to his wife, Ruth Hunter Ellinger; to his 12
22 stepchildren; to his nephews and nieces and their families; and to
23 his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wallace
4 Gordon Ellinger.

Naishtat
Madden

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 768 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 28, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House