

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 2099

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, San Antonio resident Arbie Bland celebrated his  
2 100th birthday on April 13, 2007, and this notable milestone is  
3 indeed deserving of special recognition; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of John and Dollie Alexander Bland, Mr.  
5 Bland was born in Texarkana and attended Macedonia School in that  
6 city; he moved to San Antonio in 1928; and

7           WHEREAS, Arbie Bland married the former Dorothy Wheeler in  
8 1930 and the couple shared a devoted union for 58 years until Mrs.  
9 Bland's passing in 1988; their three sons and two daughters grew up  
10 in a household where the importance of showing respect was taught at  
11 an early age and whose regular activities included participating in  
12 family prayer, attending Sunday school and church, doing chores,  
13 and listening to music and news on the radio; over the years, Mr.  
14 Bland has had the good fortune to welcome the birth of 11  
15 grandchildren,       11       great-grandchildren,       and       five  
16 great-great-grandchildren into his family; and

17           WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Bland saw duty in New Guinea  
18 and the Philippines as a member of the United States Army; following  
19 his discharge, he returned to San Antonio and took a job at Fort Sam  
20 Houston, where he was employed for two decades before retiring in  
21 1967; over the years, he has also worked as a part-time carpenter  
22 and neighborhood barber; and

23           WHEREAS, A great storyteller, Arbie Bland can captivate  
24 listeners with tales from the Bible, accounts of his experiences in

1 the Second World War, and anecdotes about the times he saw gangsters  
2 such as John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd; he also draws hearty  
3 laughs with his version of Michael Jackson's moonwalk, while he  
4 counts as his own favorite comic performer Rodney Dangerfield; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Bland still maintains a current Texas driver's  
6 license and resides in the home that he and his sons built 60 years  
7 ago, and he continues to enjoy working in his yard; and

8 WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman was a Sunday school teacher  
9 for intermediate boys at Corinth Baptist Church and Mt. Zion  
10 Baptist Church for more than three decades, and he has been a valued  
11 member of Mt. Zion for 56 years; and

12 WHEREAS, Arbie Bland has long held a respected place in his  
13 community, and it is a distinct pleasure to honor him as he  
14 celebrates 100 years of meaningful memories and achievements; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Arbie Bland on the joyous occasion  
18 of his 100th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
19 continued happiness; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Mr. Bland as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
22 House of Representatives.