

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 2545

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, General manager of KTSU-FM in Houston, George Thomas
2 has distinguished himself as a talented and determined professional
3 throughout his career in broadcasting; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was appointed to his current position in
5 1995; he had served as director of special veterans programs at
6 Texas Southern University and was an account executive at KYOK-AM,
7 where he organized the first college internship program between the
8 station and Prairie View A&M University; a former project
9 coordinator with the U.S. Department of Labor, Mr. Thomas is also an
10 accomplished jazz musician, writer, and community organizer; and

11 WHEREAS, Under his leadership, KTSU has experienced
12 unprecedented growth, receiving local and national attention for
13 its quality programming and gaining affiliate status from the
14 Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Public Radio; the
15 station's membership has grown to more than 14,000 individuals, and
16 its budget has increased by more than 100 percent due to ongoing
17 efforts to identify external funding resources; in 2002, the
18 Houston Press named KTSU the best radio station in the city; and

19 WHEREAS, As general manager, Mr. Thomas has implemented
20 professional staff development, provided salaries for on-air
21 personalities, created the first major long-term strategic plan for
22 the station, conducted the first audience research analysis, and
23 created the first African American national public radio challenge
24 with WCLK-FM in Atlanta; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas has served on the Corporation for Public
2 Broadcasting Future Fund Committee and has been invited to
3 represent African American public radio stations on CPB's advisory
4 panel for fund distribution; he is also a respected member of the
5 African American Public Radio Consortium; and

6 WHEREAS, Before embarking on a career in radio, Mr. Thomas
7 was employed for a time as a community organizer with Hope
8 Development; in this position, he worked to address the needs of
9 Fifth Ward residents and other underserved communities in the Bayou
10 City; he also wrote for the *Voice of Hope News* and worked as a
11 project coordinator for the Work Experience Program, funded by the
12 Department of Labor; and

13 WHEREAS, George Thomas has helped to change the landscape of
14 public broadcasting in Houston, and it is indeed a pleasure to
15 recognize him for his extraordinary accomplishments; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor George Thomas for his outstanding career
19 in radio and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success
20 and achievement; and, be it further

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