

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 2656

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Influential comic and social activist Dick Gregory
2 is celebrating his 75th birthday in Dallas on June 29, 2007; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory began his career in comedy in the
4 mid-1950s after being drafted into the U.S. Army; in 1961, he earned
5 a three-year contract with Chicago's Playboy Club, which propelled
6 him onto the national stage; hired to replace a white comedian, he
7 wowed audiences and was soon selling out nightclubs, making
8 television appearances, and recording albums; and

9 WHEREAS, A champion of the civil rights movement, Mr. Gregory
10 used his celebrity status to draw attention to issues of
11 segregation and disenfranchisement; in one remarkable act of
12 generosity and commitment to a just cause, he chartered a plane to
13 bring in food to poor black families who had been cut off from
14 federal surpluses as SNCC was encouraging voter registration; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory has been honored for his lifetime of
16 achievement at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; hosted by
17 Bill Cosby, the sold-out tribute was attended by Mrs. Martin Luther
18 King, Jr., Stevie Wonder, Isaac Hayes, and Cicely Tyson, to name a
19 few; and

20 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Gregory has enjoyed the
21 support of his wife, Lil, and his 10 children, Michele, Lynne,
22 Pamela, Paula, Stephanie, Gregory, Christian, Miss, Ayanna, and
23 Yohance; and

24 WHEREAS, A talented performer, published author, and cancer

1 survivor, Dick Gregory possesses a maverick spirit that has moved
2 countless individuals and earned him a special place in the hearts
3 of many; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor Dick Gregory on the occasion of his 75th
6 birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and,
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Mr. Gregory as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.