

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Esteemed Texans Charles and Betty Nelson celebrated
2 their 80th birthdays and made an exceptional contribution to the
3 arts in Abilene by organizing and sponsoring a production of
4 Handel's *Messiah*; and

5 WHEREAS, On December 3, 2006, 37 professional singers and
6 musicians from across the United States performed *Messiah* in Cullen
7 Auditorium on the Abilene Christian University campus; the
8 production was filled with extremely talented performers, each of
9 them chosen and invited by the Nelsons; and

10 WHEREAS, A professor emeritus of music at Abilene Christian
11 University, Charles Nelson first performed *Messiah* in December 1941
12 with the Grand Chorus at North Texas State Teachers College in
13 Denton; over the years, he has sung with orchestras in 49 states and
14 15 foreign countries and given performances at Carnegie Hall and
15 the Kennedy Center; in 1993 he was honored by Governor Ann Richards
16 for his distinguished career as a music educator, singer,
17 conductor, and choral director; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson moved to Abilene in 1984, and
19 since then they have been active in the arts community, donating
20 their time and talents to many worthy organizations; the Abilene
21 Philharmonic Association, the Abilene Opera Association, and the
22 Grace Museum have all benefited from their involvement; and

23 WHEREAS, The production of *Messiah* at ACU enriched the lives
24 of all who were able to attend, and it is a privilege to recognize

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1 Charles and Betty Nelson for their exceptional philanthropy; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to Charles and Betty Nelson for
5 their gift of Handel's *Messiah* to the Abilene community and extend
6 to them sincere best wishes for continued happiness and fulfillment
7 in the years ahead; and, be it further

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

King of Taylor

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2800 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House