

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 2841

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Joe A. Ragland, Sr., is celebrating the milestone of
2 his 90th birthday on June 1, 2007, and this occasion provides an apt
3 time to recognize him for his many contributions to his community;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Beaumont in 1917, Mr. Ragland developed a
6 fascination with the automobile early on, and after a period
7 working in oil and finance, he embarked on his longtime career in
8 car sales; he began in the 1940s as a Lincoln-Mercury salesman and
9 later became a sales manager for GM Chrysler; he went on to own and
10 operate his own used automobile lots as an independent businessman;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 1967, Mr. Ragland moved his family to Angleton,
13 where he and his son, Joe A. Ragland, Jr., purchased the local
14 Chrysler Plymouth dealership; the Ragland Motor Company soon
15 outgrew its downtown location and a new facility was constructed
16 outside of town on Business Highway 288 in 1973; and

17 WHEREAS, Through Mr. Ragland's persistence and
18 determination, the business thrived, acquiring the Dodge line in
19 1974 and the Jeep franchise in 1996; now known as Ragland Dodge
20 Chrysler Jeep, this successful family business currently benefits
21 from the leadership of Mr. Ragland's son and the assistance of two
22 of his grandchildren; the company is celebrating its 40th
23 anniversary in 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, The senior Mr. Ragland has long held an active

1 interest in the automobile industry and still maintains drawings of
2 his Ragland Auto Plane, a flying automobile that he began designing
3 in 1948 and patented 10 years later; and

4 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, he has drawn on the support
5 and strength of his wife, June Allen, whom he wed in 1939; their
6 years together have been made even richer with the addition of their
7 children, June Ann Mann and Joe Ragland, Jr., and their six
8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, A continual source of inspiration to his family and
10 to the employees at the Ragland dealership, Joe Ragland is fondly
11 described as "having gasoline in his veins"; he has passed on his
12 love of automobiles to his children and grandchildren, and it is
13 indeed a pleasure to honor this esteemed Texan for his many years of
14 service to the community of Angleton and for 90 years of life well
15 lived; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Joe A. Ragland, Sr., on the joyous
18 occasion of his 90th birthday and commend him for the continued
19 success of the Ragland Motor Company; and, be it further

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