

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 2983

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A respected comedian who has not only commented on  
2 the world around him but actively worked to change it for the  
3 better, Dick Gregory has spent more than a half-century as an  
4 entertainer and activist; and

5           WHEREAS, Born October 12, 1932, in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr.  
6 Gregory began performing comedy in the 1950s in predominantly  
7 African American nightclubs; he first received national attention  
8 when he replaced an Anglo comedian at the Playboy Club in Chicago in  
9 1961, and by the following year he was headlining shows, appearing  
10 on national television, and recording comedy albums; and

11           WHEREAS, Part of the new generation of African American  
12 comedians that included Bill Cosby, Nipsey Russell, and Godfrey  
13 Cambridge, Mr. Gregory rejected stereotypes and addressed racial  
14 issues with a dry and satiric wit during his performances, and his  
15 brilliant and insightful comedy has been an ongoing source of  
16 inspiration to generations of comedians; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory began his activism at an early age,  
18 leading a march that protested school segregation when he was still  
19 in high school in St. Louis; in the 1960s, he was a major supporter  
20 of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Student Nonviolent  
21 Coordinating Committee, and he was an early and outspoken critic of  
22 the Vietnam War; and

23           WHEREAS, Since that time, Dick Gregory has remained a leading  
24 advocate for peace and justice, and he has also taken up a range of

1 other social and political initiatives; an authority on nutrition  
2 and health since the 1970s, he has more recently focused his  
3 attention on alternative medicine as part of his own successful  
4 battle against cancer; moreover, he has carried forth the American  
5 tradition of free speech and protest in upholding his convictions;  
6 and

7         WHEREAS, With the love and support of Lillian, his wife of 48  
8 years, and their 10 children, Dick Gregory has continued to devote  
9 himself to the well-being of his fellow citizens, using his insight  
10 and his trademark wit to inspire and enlighten; now, therefore, be  
11 it

12         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby honor Dick Gregory for his remarkable career and  
14 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
15 further

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