

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 52

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Tyler lost a respected businessman and
2 treasured member of the community with the death of Walden P.
3 Little, who passed away on May 6, 2009, at the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Limestone County on March 14, 1920, to
5 Wilmer and Georgia Cates Little, "Red" Little graduated from
6 Grosbeck High School and Westminster Junior College; he answered
7 his nation's call to duty with service in the U.S. Army Air Corps
8 during World War II and moved to Tyler in 1950; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Little purchased a small insurance company in
10 1954 and established it in Tyler as the East Texas Life and Accident
11 Insurance Company; business went well, and in 1965 the firm changed
12 its name to the Combined Underwriters Life Insurance Company and
13 continued its growth; by the turn of the 21st century, it had 35,000
14 customers and 64 employees and held in force more than \$80 million
15 in insurance; the company merged with Citizens Inc., an Austin
16 holding company, in 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished career, Mr.
18 Little served as president of Texas Association of Life
19 Underwriters and the Texas Legal Reserve Officials Association; he
20 was twice elected to the Tyler City Commission and also twice served
21 a term as the city's mayor; he was a director of Rotary
22 International and the founder of the Reading Enrichment and
23 Development Program at First Christian Church, where he was a
24 longtime member; moreover, he gave generously to Tyler Junior

1 College, Texas College, and The University of Texas at Tyler; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Little and his wife, Kim, joined together in
3 philanthropic projects, and in 2004, the couple funded the
4 establishment of the Red and Kim Little Healthy Aging Lecture
5 Series; its annual presentations in Tyler continue to help senior
6 Texans lead active lives; and

7 WHEREAS, Red Little was a man of vision, compassion, and
8 limitless good humor who endeared himself to all he met with his
9 positive outlook and creativity; although he will be deeply missed,
10 his legacy of skilled business leadership and civic service will
11 long resonate in the Tyler community; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
14 Walden P. "Red" Little and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
15 his family: to his wife, Kim Little; to his daughter, Regina Rooney,
16 and her husband, Mark; to his grandchildren, Laura, Stacye,
17 Shannon, and Cameron; to his great-grandchildren; to his brother,
18 W. Sherill Little; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Red Little.