

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 353

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Former Texas governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., has  
2 dedicated his life to public service and philanthropy, and in  
3 November 2008, he was selected to receive the Santa Rita Award by  
4 the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System; and

5           WHEREAS, The highest honor bestowed by the UT Regents, the  
6 Santa Rita Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated  
7 concern for the principles of higher education, as well as deep  
8 commitment to furtherance of the purposes and objectives of The  
9 University of Texas System; and

10           WHEREAS, Born on April 23, 1923, in Uvalde, Dolph Briscoe,  
11 Jr., graduated as valedictorian from Uvalde High School and  
12 subsequently attended The University of Texas at Austin, where he  
13 was a member of the Friar Society and served as editor-in-chief of  
14 the *Cactus* yearbook; he earned a bachelor's degree in 1942, the same  
15 year he married a fellow Longhorn, the former Janey Slaughter;  
16 following a tour of duty with the army in the China-Burma-India  
17 theater during World War II, he returned with his wife to his  
18 hometown and his family's ranching business; and

19           WHEREAS, Mr. Briscoe began his service in the Texas House of  
20 Representatives in 1949 and quickly made his mark with the  
21 Colson-Briscoe Act, a measure that appropriated \$15 million a year  
22 to build farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads and radically  
23 enhanced the way of life for farmers and rural Texans; during four  
24 terms of service, he also successfully advocated for bills that

1 improved statewide public education and brought telephone service  
2 to thousands of rural residents; and

3         WHEREAS, After his father's death in 1954, Mr. Briscoe became  
4 the owner and manager of one of the largest and most diverse ranches  
5 in the state; he went on to serve as president of the Texas and  
6 Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and was instrumental in the  
7 development of the Southwest United States screwworm eradication  
8 program, which is still considered one of the most important and  
9 beneficial in the history of livestock; and

10         WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan reentered the political arena in  
11 1972 as the Democratic candidate for governor and impressed voters  
12 with his platform of honesty and integrity in government; his  
13 tenure spanned six years and included such achievements as passage  
14 of open meetings and open records legislation and an extensive  
15 ethics and financial disclosure bill; moreover, he added some \$4  
16 billion in public funds for secondary and higher education; in  
17 addition, Governor Briscoe distinguished himself as chair of the  
18 Southern Governors' Association, as president of the Interstate Oil  
19 Compact Commission, as a member of the National Petroleum Council,  
20 and as an executive committee member of the National Governors  
21 Association; and

22         WHEREAS, Since leaving public office in the late 1970s, he  
23 has continued to benefit the Lone Star State through his  
24 exceptional support of UT System institutions, including the UT  
25 Health Science Center at San Antonio, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer  
26 Center, and UT Southwestern Medical Center; Mr. Briscoe's most  
27 recent gift in 2008 of \$15 million to the Center for American

1 History at UT Austin reflects both his passion for history and his  
2 enthusiasm for his alma mater, and the center was fittingly renamed  
3 in his honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Equally committed to making a positive difference in  
5 the lives of Texans was Mrs. Briscoe, who worked in behalf of  
6 children, senior citizens, and the developmentally disabled before  
7 her death in 2000; Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe raised three children, Janey  
8 Briscoe Marmion, Dolph Briscoe III, and Cele Briscoe Carpenter, and  
9 inspired others with their long and devoted union; and

10 WHEREAS, The University of Texas System and its institutions  
11 realize great achievements year after year, thanks in part to the  
12 generosity and vision of people such as Dolph Briscoe, and his  
13 immeasurable contributions to higher education will continue to  
14 resonate well into the future; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
16 Legislature hereby honor former governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., on his  
17 receipt of the Santa Rita Award and extend to him sincere  
18 appreciation for his outstanding dedication to his fellow Texans;  
19 and, be it further

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