

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend R. A. Callies, Sr., of San Antonio has
2 devoted much of his life to paying tribute to distinguished civil
3 rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in El Campo on September 12, 1929, Reverend
5 Callies earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of
6 Arkansas, served two years in the U.S. Army, and embarked on dual
7 careers in the ministry and education; the founder and longtime
8 pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in San Antonio, Reverend
9 Callies also taught for more than 35 years at a San Antonio school
10 once known as James W. Riley, Jr., Middle School; he was
11 instrumental in persuading the San Antonio Independent School
12 District to rename that campus Martin Luther King, Jr., Middle
13 School; and

14 WHEREAS, An important catalyst in the local movement to
15 commemorate Dr. King, Reverend Callies led his family and a few
16 close friends through the East Side in San Antonio's first MLK March
17 in 1972; thanks to his perseverance through the early years, this
18 small function eventually grew to become a city-sponsored event and
19 the largest such march in the country, with an estimated 100,000
20 individuals participating; and

21 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, Reverend Callies led the
22 drive to erect a statue in Dr. King's honor; assisted by his team of
23 volunteers, he raised more than \$9,000 over the course of some five
24 years; in 1982, the statue was dedicated as the Monument of

1 Brotherhood at the intersection of East Houston Street and North
2 New Braunfels Avenue, a site that has been designated MLK Plaza at
3 his behest; and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Callies also championed the development of
5 Martin Luther King Park on the city's East Side, and he successfully
6 campaigned to change the name of the street along the south side of
7 the park to Martin Luther King Drive, to extend MLK Drive to Lord
8 Road, and to designate the bridge in the 3500 block of MLK Drive as
9 the MLK Freedom Bridge; and

10 WHEREAS, Joining forces with activists across Texas,
11 Reverend Callies lobbied to secure the recognition of Martin Luther
12 King, Jr., Day as a state holiday, a goal that was ultimately
13 realized in 1992; and

14 WHEREAS, In all his undertakings, Reverend Callies has
15 rejoiced in the support of his loving wife, Eunice, and their
16 children, Aaron, Arlington, Doris, Yvette, and Phyllis; and

17 WHEREAS, The recipient of many accolades, Reverend Callies
18 holds three honorary doctorates; moreover, the San Antonio MLK
19 Commission presented him with its first annual MLK Distinguished
20 Achievement Award in 1987; in January 2008, the city further
21 recognized his contributions with a plaque fittingly placed in MLK
22 Plaza, near the foot of the King monument; and

23 WHEREAS, R. A. Callies has helped to preserve the legacy of a
24 great American, providing Texans with lasting reminders of Dr.
25 King's pursuit of freedom and brotherhood; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
27 Legislature hereby honor the Reverend R. A. Callies, Sr., for his

H.R. No. 381

1 civic leadership and extend to him profound appreciation for his
2 role in perpetuating the ideals of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and, be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Reverend Callies as an expression of high regard by the
6 Texas House of Representatives.

McClendon

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Peña
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 381

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 381 was adopted by the House on
February 26, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House