

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 781

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, T. J. Patterson, Sr., is an outstanding Texan who  
2 has long distinguished himself through his professional  
3 achievements and his many years of community leadership; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Waxahachie, Mr. Patterson graduated in  
5 1954 from Booker T. Washington High School in Wichita Falls and went  
6 on to earn a bachelor's degree from Bishop College, where he served  
7 as editor of the newspaper; he began work as a private school  
8 teacher in 1959, but soon answered his country's call to arms during  
9 the Vietnam War, serving as a member of the U.S. Army; his varied  
10 career also includes service as a commander in the Navy Reserve, as  
11 executive director of the Community Action Board, and as assistant  
12 to the dean of the College of Business Administration at Texas Tech  
13 University for more than a decade; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson became co-publisher of the *Southwest*  
15 *Digest*, along with his friend Eddie P. Richardson, in 1984; in the  
16 years since then, the two men have worked to keep Lubbock's African  
17 American community informed on a range of pertinent news; the  
18 weekly paper is famous for publishing the names and photos of local  
19 people arrested for drug dealing, as well as for its coverage of  
20 community events and milestones not always reported by others; and

21           WHEREAS, At the same time that he entered the publishing  
22 business, Mr. Patterson made a name for himself in local politics  
23 when he was elected as a member of the Lubbock City Council; he  
24 served continuously in that role for 20 years, founding the Texas

1 Association of Black City Council Members and serving as the first  
2 African American president of the Texas Municipal League along the  
3 way; moreover, he was a board member of the National League of  
4 Cities; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has been supported through the  
6 years by his wife, Bobbie Gean Bailey-Patterson, a longtime  
7 educator for Lubbock ISD, and their three children, Avis, T. J., and  
8 Shelia; together, the couple were honored with the dedication of  
9 the Bobbie Gean and T. J. Patterson Library in Lubbock, and a Texas  
10 Tech scholarship has recently been established in their name by  
11 Each One Reach One; and

12 WHEREAS, T. J. Patterson has set an inspiring example of  
13 professional achievement and civic engagement, and in so doing, he  
14 has earned the lasting respect and admiration of all who know him;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize T. J. Patterson, Sr., for his  
18 outstanding efforts in behalf of his fellow citizens and extend to  
19 him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and,  
20 be it further

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