

By: Maldonado

H.R. No. 933

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of
2 M. E. Johnson of Round Rock, who died on January 3, 2009, at the age
3 of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, "Gene" Johnson was born in Johnson County, Arkansas,
5 on January 3, 1923, to Joe and Clara Johnson; answering his nation's
6 call to duty during World War II, he served in the Pacific theater
7 as an aviation chief machinist's mate in the U.S. Navy, on board the
8 aircraft carriers USS *Wasp* and USS *Intrepid*; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson opened the M. E. "Gene" Johnson service
10 station on Airport Boulevard in Austin in 1946; though sold in later
11 years, this longtime Austin business continues in operation today
12 under the same name and at the same location; he subsequently also
13 opened Airport Auto Supply, and for 20 years he had a U-Haul outlet,
14 during which time he ranked as the top U-Haul dealer in Austin and
15 San Antonio; Mr. Johnson was active in the garage association and
16 the wholesale parts association, and he was a member of the Texas
17 Independent Automotive Association; and

18 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s, this enterprising Texan became a
19 licensed Realtor; his daughters later followed him into that
20 profession and joined the newest family business, M. E. "Gene"
21 Johnson Realtors; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was an endowed member of the Scottish
23 Rite, a member of the York Rite, and a member of the Ben Hur Shrine;
24 in addition, he was an endowed member and life member of Hill City

1 Lodge No. 456, with which he was affiliated for 49 years and of
2 which he was past master, and he was an endowed member of Round Rock
3 Lodge No. 227; both lodges conferred on him the Golden Trowel Award;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Justly proud of his military service, Gene Johnson
6 played an active role in his community as a lifetime member of the
7 American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; his businesses
8 also sponsored Little League teams in Austin for more than half a
9 century; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson and his wife, Barbara June, were the
11 loving parents of two daughters, Ady and Pam, and they shared a
12 rewarding and devoted union for more than 57 years, until her
13 passing; and

14 WHEREAS, Held in great esteem by countless patrons for the
15 friendly, honest, and reliable manner in which he conducted his
16 businesses, Gene Johnson continually made good on his slogans
17 "Service with a smile" and "A name you can trust," and he will be
18 forever remembered with deep affection by all who shared in the
19 richness of his life; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of M. E. "Gene" Johnson
22 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
23 daughters, Adrienne Purgason and her husband, Raymon, and Pamela
24 Cirkiel and her husband, Martin; to his brother, Gaylon Johnson,
25 and his wife, Jo; to his sister, Edna Hickey; to his grandsons, Lee
26 Kinser and his wife, Kathy, Mike Kinser and his wife, Candace, and
27 Shawn Cirkiel and his wife, Bria; to his granddaughter, Sarah

1 Cirkiel; to his great-grandchildren, Loren, Amber, Morgan,
2 Madison, Micah, and Makenna Kinser and Noah and Dylan Cirkiel; and
3 to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in honor of Gene
7 Johnson.