

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 1038

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Morris Johnson of Huntsville has been named the
2 Walker County Citizen of the Year for 2008; and

3 WHEREAS, A native of Corsicana, Mr. Johnson attended G. W.
4 Jackson High School, where he developed an abiding interest in
5 chemistry, geometry, and physics that was inspired by his teacher,
6 A. C. Phillips; he graduated, and his desire to continue his
7 education was supported by a four-year academic scholarship from
8 the Collin Street Bakery; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson earned his bachelor's degree from
10 Huston-Tillotson University in 1963, and he went on to receive a
11 master's degree in chemistry and physics; though not planning to be
12 a teacher, he discovered his love for the work while instructing
13 adults and educators at a national science foundation; and

14 WHEREAS, He was soon hired by the Huntsville Independent
15 School District as a science teacher and basketball coach; former
16 superintendent Mance Park became his mentor and role model, guiding
17 Mr. Johnson through his first year, and he later accepted a position
18 at Huntsville High School as a science teacher; and

19 WHEREAS, An outstanding educator, Mr. Johnson made a positive
20 difference in the lives of many students by making earth science and
21 physics classes fun, and his influence led a number of his students
22 to develop higher education goals and pursue careers in occupations
23 related to math and science; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson also served the school district as an

1 administrator; as principal of Samuel W. Houston Elementary School,
2 he strove to learn every child's name within the first six weeks of
3 each school year, and his exceptional ability to develop a personal
4 rapport with his students and his compassion for those who
5 struggled contributed to his success; and

6 WHEREAS, His administrative accomplishments also include the
7 establishment of an on-campus bookstore to furnish essential school
8 supplies to students, regardless of their economic standing; under
9 his leadership, the school received the state's highest
10 recognition, the Texas Successful Schools Award; and

11 WHEREAS, Admired and beloved by his staff and students, Mr.
12 Johnson was honored for his work in 2001, when the Houston
13 Elementary School cafeteria was named in his honor; his
14 professional efforts also earned him the title of Educator of the
15 Month for HISD in 1993; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson retired from teaching in 2002, and since
17 that time, he has devoted his talent and energy to his community; he
18 is a member of the boards of the Walker County Housing Authority,
19 Tri-County Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, the Walker
20 County Heritage Foundation, and Huntsville's Promise; the boards of
21 the First Missionary Baptist Church, the Huntsville-Walker County
22 Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville Memorial Hospital, and First State
23 Bank also benefit from his service; and

24 WHEREAS, The vitality of a community depends in large measure
25 on the active engagement of its citizens, and Morris Johnson stands
26 at the forefront of those individuals who are making a positive
27 difference in their communities through their dedication and

1 leadership; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby congratulate Morris Johnson on his selection as
4 the 2008 Citizen of the Year by the Huntsville-Walker County
5 Chamber of Commerce and extend to him sincere best wishes for
6 continued success and happiness; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for Mr. Johnson as an expression of high regard by the
9 Texas House of Representatives.