

By: Mallory Caraway

H.R. No. 1871

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The late Derrick Lanier Geter of Dallas had a
2 lasting influence on his community through his notable endeavors in
3 behalf of its most vulnerable residents, and it is indeed fitting to
4 celebrate his life and legacy of service; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on February 13, 1963, in Augusta, Georgia, Mr.
6 Geter was the son of Tommie Geter, Jr., and Dorothy Geter; when he
7 was nearly five years old, his family moved from Langley, South
8 Carolina, to Dallas, and he graduated from David W. Carter High
9 School; he served his country in the Army National Guard and
10 continued his studies at the American Trades Institute; he was
11 employed with SmithKline Beecham Laboratories for a decade,
12 although gospel music was always his true calling; and

13 WHEREAS, This gifted musician performed with such stars as
14 Kirk Franklin and Yolanda Adams, and used his talents to reach out
15 to others, sharing his faith, providing encouragement, and
16 mentoring young people, including recording artist Greg O'Quin; he
17 was instrumental in organizing the Dallas Mass Choir in 1988 and
18 recorded "More Like Jesus" with that group; at the time of his
19 passing in October 2008, he was a musician at Mayo Chapel Methodist
20 Church; and

21 WHEREAS, After losing a beloved foster son to gang violence,
22 Mr. Geter redoubled his efforts to help youth through his music; he
23 created the musical drama *Young Brother, You're Not Alone*, and
24 wrote the title song for the play *Don't Throw Your Life Away*, which

1 also became the title track of his own CD release; in addition, he
2 established Geter Enterprises Outreach Ministries and the Give a
3 Child a Chance Foundation, and hosted such events as a talent show,
4 a children's gospel concert, and a concert to promote resistance to
5 gangs; and

6 WHEREAS, Serious illness beset Mr. Geter for many years, but
7 he never flagged in his resolve to help others and used his small
8 disability income to create and support events that gave children
9 opportunities to shine; his Kids Day in the Park events grew so
10 popular that local ministries and community organizations began to
11 join forces with him to bring even more people together through
12 these festivities; Mr. Geter turned his own birthdays into
13 celebrations for children, and he helped students at his former
14 school, T. G. Terry Elementary, by returning to give motivational
15 talks; and

16 WHEREAS, For more than two decades, Mr. Geter volunteered at
17 South Dallas and Cedar Hill nursing homes; moreover, he
18 collaborated with staff at Cedar Valley College to provide programs
19 and presented workshops in San Antonio, New York, Philadelphia, and
20 other cities around the country; when he received a diagnosis of
21 aggressive cancer, he brushed off any suggestion that he should
22 take more time for himself; and

23 WHEREAS, Even as his strength waned, Derrick Geter continued
24 to do whatever he could to make his community a better place, and
25 his generosity, compassion, and determination will forever inspire
26 all those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be
27 it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Derrick Geter and
3 extend sincere condolences to his daughter, Atalyah Young, to his
4 mother and stepfather, Dorothy Stoker Starks and George Starks, to
5 his father, Tommie Geter, Jr., to his sister and brothers, Deatra,
6 Darryl, and Christopher Geter, to his other family members and many
7 friends, and to the countless community members who mourn his
8 passing; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Derrick
12 Geter.