

By: Kent

H.R. No. 1944

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of
2 entrepreneur and community leader Marion Allen Mitchell of Dallas,
3 who died on April 7, 2009, at the age of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, Marion Allen Mitchell was born in Wheelock on May
5 15, 1925, to Elijah and Amanda Mitchell; he graduated from Kemp High
6 School in Bryan; after working as a farmer during World War II, he
7 moved to Dallas, where he was employed by Edmar Ford, Acme Brick
8 Company, and Braniff Airways; and

9 WHEREAS, While working at Preston Forest Tower in the 1960s,
10 Mr. Mitchell realized that the building's mail was delivered by a
11 private company, not the U.S. Postal Service, and in 1966, he
12 started his own business, contracting with the post office to carry
13 mail between Garland and Dallas; and

14 WHEREAS, First known as Mitchell Transportation and later as
15 Mitchell Mail Service, the company was the first private mail
16 carrier to be owned by an African American in Dallas; it grew over
17 the next 25 years from a single truck to a company of 50 employees
18 transporting U.S. mail all over North Texas and leasing trailers to
19 the postal service; Mr. Mitchell also owned a truck service
20 terminal; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell was a leading member of his profession,
22 serving as a member of the board of the National Association of
23 Letter Carriers and as a vice president of the National Star Route
24 Mail Contractors Association; and

1 WHEREAS, A man of strong religious faith, Mr. Mitchell was an
2 active member of Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, serving on
3 the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, the Building
4 Committee, and the board of trustees; he was active in the greater
5 community as well, as a member of the Civic League, the Dallas Black
6 Chamber of Commerce, and the Dallas African American Museum, and he
7 was a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

8 WHEREAS, Marion Mitchell exemplified the virtues of
9 integrity, hard work, and initiative, and his legacy of achievement
10 and commitment to his community will continue to inspire those he
11 leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Marion Allen Mitchell
14 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
15 wife of 65 years, Irene Shields Mitchell; to his children,
16 Constance Mitchell-Sharpe and Fred Mitchell, Sr.; to his brother,
17 Benjamin Mitchell; to his sister, Estelle Mitchell-Adams; to his
18 grandchildren, Regina Mitchell-Gillstrap, Marilyn Mitchell-Pope,
19 and Fred Mitchell, Jr.; to his great-granddaughters, Danielle and
20 Gina Pope; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Marion
25 Allen Mitchell.