

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 2267

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Bert Williams, attorney and former
2 mayor of El Paso, is an outstanding community leader who was in the
3 forefront of efforts to address civil rights injustices and serious
4 environmental concerns in that city; and

5 WHEREAS, Unable to buy dinner for an African American teenage
6 boy who was refused service at a local restaurant in 1962, Mr.
7 Williams began working to eliminate such discrimination in his role
8 as a city alderman; within months, he was instrumental in
9 passing--over a mayor's veto--a city ordinance on civil rights that
10 banned discrimination in motels, hotels, theaters, and
11 restaurants; his youthful friend that fateful evening was none
12 other than Nolan Richardson, who went on to become a renowned
13 college basketball coach; and

14 WHEREAS, Serving as mayor from 1971 to 1973, he continued his
15 efforts to benefit El Paso and was one of the city's first elected
16 leaders to challenge ASARCO after high levels of lead were
17 discovered in children near the copper smelting facility; and

18 WHEREAS, Bert Williams has made a positive and lasting
19 difference in the lives of his fellow citizens, and through his
20 principled actions, he has set a notable example of civic
21 engagement for all Texans; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor former El Paso mayor Bert Williams for his
24 admirable achievements as a community leader and civil rights

1 activist and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and,
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Mr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
5 Texas House of Representatives.