

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1043

In Memory  
of  
Tommie Lee Bell

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Tommie Lee Bell, a pioneer among black El Pasoans, who died May 18, 2009, at the age of 100; and

**WHEREAS**, Tommie Lee Bell was born in 1908; he was raised on a farm in Faker, Texas; he left the East Texas area in the 1930s to escape prejudice and to find work in El Paso; soon after moving to El Paso, he married Lenora Hudson, who was from his hometown; they were married for more than 60 years and had a son, the late David Lee Bell, and a daughter, Tommie Anita Bell; and

**WHEREAS**, He found work as an elevator operator at the Plaza Hotel before being hired by Beaumont Army Medical Center, where he worked as a cook and as a supervisor for 25 years before retiring; he was one of the first black people to work as a civilian at the center and was among the first blacks to own property in El Paso; he had saved 25 cents a week to buy his first home; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout his life, he was active in community service and volunteered with numerous organizations; at the age of 90, he began volunteering at the Sierra Medical Center two times a week as a lobby escort; when he was 92 years old, he was honored as the Man of Distinction by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for his commitment to community service; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bell was a quiet, unassuming gentleman noted for his warmth, his strength of character, and his kindness to others; he lived through dramatic changes in the United States as

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blacks gained equal rights, and he was an exemplary role model in his community; he was a devoted father, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured for years to come by his family and his many friends; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby honor the memory of Tommie Lee Bell and extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tommie Lee Bell.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2009, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate