

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Those Texans who give freely of their time and
2 talents to benefit the larger community make the world a better
3 place through their actions, and the Reverend Raymond A. Callies,
4 Sr., of San Antonio, who passed away on June 9, 2011, at the age of
5 81, was indeed one such person; and

6 WHEREAS, R. A. Callies was born in El Campo on September 12,
7 1929; he earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of
8 Arkansas and served two years in the U.S. Army before embarking on
9 dual careers in the ministry and education; he founded the First
10 Gethsemane Baptist Church in San Antonio, where he served as pastor
11 for three decades, and he also taught for more than 35 years at a San
12 Antonio school once known as James W. Riley, Jr., Middle School;
13 Reverend Callies was instrumental in persuading the San Antonio
14 Independent School District to rename that campus Martin Luther
15 King, Jr., Middle School, in just one of many examples of his
16 efforts to celebrate the life of Dr. King; and

17 WHEREAS, Driving his red truck, with Dr. King's "I Have a
18 Dream" speech broadcasting from the speakers, Reverend Callies
19 would lead his family and a few close friends through San Antonio's
20 East Side in the 1970s; thanks to his perseverance, these informal
21 processions grew into the city-sponsored MLK March, the largest
22 such march in the country, with upwards of 100,000 individuals
23 participating; and

24 WHEREAS, Also in the 1970s, Reverend Callies initiated a

1 drive to erect a statue in Dr. King's honor; he and his supporters
2 raised more than \$9,000 over the course of some five years, and in
3 1982, the statue was dedicated as the Monument of Brotherhood at the
4 intersection of East Houston Street and North New Braunfels Avenue,
5 a site that he later worked to have designated MLK Plaza; among his
6 other local accomplishments are the development of Martin Luther
7 King Park and the naming of Martin Luther King Drive and the MLK
8 Freedom Bridge; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the years, Reverend Callies joined forces
10 with activists across Texas to lobby for the recognition of Martin
11 Luther King, Jr., Day as a state holiday; their goal was ultimately
12 realized in 1991, with the enactment of Senate Bill 134; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Callies distinguished himself as well
14 through his work to enhance the quality of life for residents of San
15 Antonio's East Side, advocating for such general improvements as
16 traffic lights and drainage projects; and

17 WHEREAS, Reverend Callies was the recipient of many
18 accolades, including three honorary doctorates; moreover, the San
19 Antonio MLK Commission presented him with its first annual MLK
20 Distinguished Achievement Award in 1987; in January 2008, the city
21 further recognized his contributions with a plaque fittingly placed
22 in MLK Plaza, near the foot of the King monument; in all of his
23 undertakings, Reverend Callies enjoyed the support of his loving
24 wife, Eunice, and their five children; and

25 WHEREAS, Passionate, inspiring, and devoted to the causes he
26 held dear, R. A. Callies helped to preserve the legacy of a great
27 American and to empower his fellow citizens, and his achievements

1 will continue to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
4 of the Reverend R. A. Callies and extend sincere sympathy to the
5 members of his family: to his wife, Eunice; to his children, Aaron,
6 Doris, Arlington, Yvette, and Phylis; to his six grandchildren; and
7 to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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

McClendon

H.R. No. 107

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 107 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on June 28, 2011.

Chief Clerk of the House