

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 107

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 82, 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.