

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 177

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 death of groundbreaking civil rights activist and former Dallas
3 City Council member Albert Louis Lipscomb, who died on June 18,
4 2011, at the age of 86; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Lucille Katy Jeffrey and T. B. Lipscomb,
6 Al Lipscomb was born in East Dallas on June 15, 1925; he graduated
7 from Lincoln High School and served in the United States Army Air
8 Forces during World War II; in 1950, he returned to his hometown and
9 worked as headwaiter at a number of the city's finest restaurants;
10 while employed at the Baker Hotel, he met his future wife, the
11 former Lovie Marie Love, and their fulfilling marriage was made
12 even richer through the years with the addition of eight children;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In the mid-1960s, Mr. Lipscomb took a leading role
15 in what proved a long battle to help African American homeowners
16 threatened with displacement from Fair Park; he worked as an
17 organizer for the Dallas Community Action Agency and for the
18 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, whose Dallas chapter he
19 cofounded; undaunted by threats, he strengthened the determination
20 of others participating in the bold SCLC campaign to end
21 discrimination by a grocery chain; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Lipscomb became the first African American to
23 run for mayor of Dallas in 1971, and although it cost him his job as
24 supervisor of field operations for the Council of Churches Block

1 Partnership program, he received enough votes to force a runoff
2 between the two leading candidates; moreover, his support tipped
3 the balance against the establishment candidate and altered the
4 political landscape in Dallas; he was the lead plaintiff in the
5 landmark constitutional lawsuit that overturned the city's
6 at-large election system and forced the creation of single-member
7 districts; in addition, he founded the South Dallas Information
8 Center to help residents with issues of discrimination and poverty,
9 and for years, he appeared in the council chamber and at other
10 public meetings as a vigorous citizen voice for change; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1984, Mr. Lipscomb won election to the city
12 council, and he was elected mayor pro tem in 1991; term limits
13 required him to leave office in 1993, and he founded a chemical
14 supply company, Lipscomb Industries, before regaining his seat two
15 years later; over the course of his seven terms in office, he held
16 regular town hall meetings, cosponsored an innovative
17 community-based crime prevention program that continues to benefit
18 citizens today, and devoted himself to improving the quality of
19 life in his Oak Cliff district and Greater Dallas; remaining a
20 forceful defender of civil rights, he successfully advocated for
21 the hiring of the first minority city manager in Dallas; he resigned
22 in 2000, and in 2003 he was appointed to the Citizens Police Review
23 Board; and

24 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan was a lifelong member of
25 St. Mark's Baptist Church; an ordained deacon, he served as
26 president of the Pastor's Aid Committee and sang in the Male Chorus,
27 and Rialto Community Bible College awarded him an honorary

1 doctorate in religion; tireless in his commitment to the community,
2 Mr. Lipscomb served in leadership roles with numerous
3 organizations, among them Dallas Legal Services, the Martin Luther
4 King, Jr., Community Center, Progressive Voters League, and the
5 City of Dallas Charter Review Committee; the Texas Peace Officers
6 Association selected him as Man of the Year in 1980 and he was named
7 one of "50 People Who Made Dallas" by *D Magazine*; his myriad
8 accolades also included the Outstanding Texan Achievement Award
9 from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Civil Rights Award
10 from the John F. Kennedy/Lyndon Baines Johnson Civil Rights Center;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Al Lipscomb stood strong against civil injustice,
13 and his courage and resolution inspired others to take up the cause;
14 opening doors for minority leaders in municipal government, he
15 served as a mentor to many who entered public service; although he
16 will be deeply missed by his loved ones and host of admirers, his
17 vital contributions to his community and to social progress in
18 Dallas will never be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
21 Albert Louis Lipscomb and extend sincere condolences to the members
22 of his family: to his wife, Lovie Marie Lipscomb; to his children,
23 Jacquelyn McDonald and her husband, Jerry, Eyelette Lipscomb,
24 Donette Zeno and her husband, Donald, Alva Smith, LaVette Dudley
25 and her husband, Roderick, Noel Lipscomb, Jeffrey Lipscomb, and
26 Jesse Lipscomb and his wife, Debra; to his 14 grandchildren; to his
27 15 great-grandchildren; to his 2 great-great-grandchildren; to his

1 brother, Thomas Lipscomb, and his wife, Nora; and to his many other
2 relatives and friends; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Albert
6 Louis Lipscomb.