

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2011, Ebby Halliday is celebrating her
2 100th birthday with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, famed tenor
3 Mario Frangoulis, and a distinguished group of donors to the Ebby
4 Halliday Fund of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished
5 Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, This iconic Dallas entrepreneur and philanthropist
7 was named a Distinguished American by the Horatio Alger Association
8 in 2005, and her birthday gala benefits the fund supporting college
9 scholarships; Ms. Halliday began commemorating her centennial in
10 February with a benefit that raised some \$700,000 for the
11 Foundation Fighting Blindness, of which she is a national trustee;
12 in the course of that splendid event, she greeted hundreds of
13 prominent Texans and danced with Tony Orlando as he serenaded her
14 with "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak Tree"; and

15 WHEREAS, Born Vera Lucille Koch in Arkansas on March 9, 1911,
16 the daughter of Louis and Lucille Koch grew up on a farm in Kansas;
17 she entered the sales field at the age of eight, riding her pony to
18 sell Cloverine Salve to neighbors; after graduating from high
19 school, she rode a bus to Kansas City and applied for a job at the
20 largest department store; she became a star of the millinery
21 department, and, at the suggestion of a fellow clerk, adopted the
22 suitably effervescent name Ebby Halliday; and

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Halliday won promotions to Omaha and then
24 Dallas, where she headed the millinery department at the W. A. Green

1 store; a wise stock investment allowed her to open her own popular
2 boutique, Ebby's Hats; a good customer was married to a developer of
3 insulated-cement homes, who wondered that since she could sell his
4 wife "those crazy hats," could she sell maybe his "crazy houses"
5 too; taking a visionary approach, Ms. Halliday brought in
6 attractive furnishings to make the modest homes more appealing, an
7 example of "staging" long before the term was coined; she sold all
8 the properties and launched her own real estate company in 1945; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the years, Ebby Halliday, REALTORS,
10 expanded extensively, making "Ebby" a household name; guided by
11 founding principles of service to the client, the industry, and the
12 community, she served in countless leadership roles; she founded
13 the Dallas Chapter of the Women's Council of the National
14 Association of Realtors and served as its president before becoming
15 president of the National Women's Council; moreover, she was the
16 first female president of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce;
17 numerous realtors advanced in the profession through her mentoring,
18 and she developed the talents of many women who went on to start
19 their own businesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Naturally driven, Ms. Halliday learned the
21 importance of balancing work and home life in 1958, when she was in
22 Beaumont for a speaking engagement and met an attorney named
23 Maurice Acers; the couple married on April 29, 1965, and enjoyed a
24 rewarding relationship until his passing in 1993; Ms. Halliday
25 shared with her husband the motto "Do something for someone every
26 day," and she has lent her considerable energies to myriad
27 charitable and civic endeavors; in 2008, she received the

1 prestigious Linz Award from the Junior League of Dallas for her
2 contributions, and she has received a host of other accolades,
3 among them the 2010 Public Service Award from Phoenix House of
4 Texas; she is a member of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and the
5 Texas Business Hall of Fame; and

6 WHEREAS, The "grande dame of Dallas real estate" today
7 presides over the largest independently owned residential real
8 estate firm in the Lone Star State, which ranks as one of the
9 largest in the country, with 30 offices, two boutique firms under
10 its umbrella, and leasing, property management, mortgage, and
11 personal insurance businesses; as chair, Ms. Halliday continues to
12 put in regular hours at her office, where two assistants help her
13 manage her busy schedule; she credits her longevity to a simple
14 program: "I don't drink, I don't smoke, and I don't retire"; and

15 WHEREAS, Ebby Halliday blazed a trail for other women in the
16 real estate industry and the business world, and her enduring
17 commitment to her community is a source of inspiration to all who
18 are privileged to know of her; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Ebby Halliday on the joyous
21 occasion of her 100th birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes
22 for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Ms. Halliday as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.

Button

H.R. No. 753

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 753 was adopted by the House on March 17, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House