

By: Sheets

H.R. No. 764

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Trailblazing real estate magnate and irrepressible
2 entrepreneur Ebby Halliday of Dallas is commemorating a remarkable
3 milestone in her life with the observance of her 100th birthday on
4 March 9, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, Born Vera Lucille Koch in 1911, she later adopted
6 the name Ebby Halliday to better reflect her distinctive
7 personality; she was raised on a farm in Kansas, receiving her
8 education in a one-room schoolhouse and dreaming of becoming a
9 horseback rider in a circus; after graduating from high school in
10 Abilene, Kansas, she took a job selling hats with the Consolidated
11 Millinery Company in Kansas City, Missouri, and was quickly
12 promoted; her abilities soon led her to take on greater
13 responsibilities at stores in Omaha and then in Dallas, where she
14 arrived in 1938; and

15 WHEREAS, A manager for retailer W. A. Green for seven years,
16 Ms. Halliday saved money all the while, and before long had enough
17 to invest and subsequently to open her own hat shop; after a patron
18 complained of his difficulty in finding buyers for his innovative
19 insulated cement houses in a new development, she soon discovered
20 that her sales instincts made her a natural in the real estate
21 business; by dressing up the houses with attractive curtains, rugs,
22 and furniture, she sold all 52 of them in nine months and founded
23 Ebby Halliday Realtors in 1945; and

24 WHEREAS, Today, Ms. Halliday's company is a renowned

1 operation with more than 1,600 agents who work out of 30 offices and
2 two luxury boutiques; the business is the largest independently
3 owned real estate brokerage company in Texas and one of the largest
4 in the country, and also handles leasing, property management, and
5 mortgage and personal insurance; consistently emphasizing service
6 to the client, the community, and the industry itself, the company
7 celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2010; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Halliday has shared her time and talents over
9 the years as president of the Women's Council of the National
10 Association of Realtors in 1956 and as the first woman president of
11 the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce in 1968; inducted into the
12 Texas Business Hall of Fame, the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, and the
13 Dallas Business Hall of Fame, she has received numerous awards and
14 recognitions, including the Ernst and Young Regional Entrepreneur
15 of the Year award and the Dallas Linz Award, and she was the first
16 recipient of the Ebby Halliday Executive Excellence Award given by
17 Executive Women International; and

18 WHEREAS, Her biography, *Ebby Halliday: The First Lady of Real*
19 *Estate*, was published in 2009, and a yellow rose was cultivated and
20 named in her honor to commemorate her company's 60th anniversary
21 and her 94th birthday; an unofficial ambassador of goodwill for
22 Dallas during a period of extensive growth, she continues to be
23 committed to her goal of building a thriving sales force and
24 offering career opportunities to bright and motivated women; and

25 WHEREAS, Still active in her business, Ms. Halliday also
26 dedicates a great deal of her time to philanthropy and her
27 community; she is a strong supporter of the Foundation Fighting

1 Blindness, which she serves as a national trustee, and the Horatio
2 Alger Association, which awards scholarships to deserving young
3 people and is the beneficiary of the proceeds from her 100th
4 birthday gala; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Halliday married Maurice Acers in 1965, and the
6 couple enjoyed 28 years of fulfilling partnership until his passing
7 in 1993; she credits her extraordinary longevity to her mantra,
8 "Don't drink, don't smoke, don't retire," and she remains devoted to
9 her faith, to the Dallas Mavericks and Cowboys, and to her mission
10 to help countless Americans achieve their dream of homeownership;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The epitome of Dallas style, savvy, and can-do
13 spirit, Ebby Halliday has combined hard work, optimism, and
14 generosity to build a business and a life of outsize proportions,
15 and she has earned the lasting admiration of all who know her; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor the grande dame of Dallas real estate,
19 Ebby Halliday, on the occasion of her 100th birthday and extend to
20 her sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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