

By: Howard of Fort Bend

H.R. No. 928

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends were deeply saddened by the loss  
2 of Houston businessman and community leader Gilbert Manly Turner,  
3 who passed away on February 14, 2011, at the age of 88; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on March 18, 1922, in the Travis Peak community  
5 of Travis County to George Manly and Anna Marie Gerstman Turner,  
6 Gilbert Turner grew up in Milam County and then enrolled at Texas  
7 A&M University in 1941, holding three part-time jobs while  
8 maintaining a perfect grade point average; he left in 1943 for  
9 officer's training school, and served in the United States Army  
10 from 1944 to 1946, returning afterwards to graduate at the top of  
11 his class; he was a member of the national championship pistol team,  
12 the rifle team, and the Distinguished Students Council, and he was  
13 president of the Accounting Society; and

14           WHEREAS, While working as a CPA in 1948, Mr. Turner helped to  
15 begin a company that eventually became BorTunCo, the largest boring  
16 and tunneling company in the country, and his patented inventions  
17 and innovations in machinery and methods revolutionized the  
18 industry; he also contributed to the invention of a drilling  
19 machine approved by the Alaska Pipeline authorities and used all  
20 over the world; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Turner was additionally one of the founders, and  
22 later the chair of the board and CEO, of the American Steel Building  
23 Company, which specialized in pre-engineered buildings such as  
24 airplane hangars, sports arenas, and industrial and commercial

1 structures; and

2 WHEREAS, During the Reagan administration, Mr. Turner was  
3 appointed by the secretary of defense to serve as chair of the  
4 National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; he  
5 was a member of the board of trustees of Houston Baptist University,  
6 and chaired that body for 19 years, additionally serving as chair of  
7 the president's council and the development council; the recipient  
8 of an honorary doctorate from the university, he established and  
9 funded a number of endowed scholarships for students; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Turner also created scholarships in perpetuity  
11 at his alma mater, Texas A&M, and served on the Chancellor's Century  
12 Council; he was a member of the Houston Aggie Club and the Diamond  
13 Century Club, sponsored Texas A&M basketball and football  
14 programming, and was named a distinguished alumnus in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, This industrious Texan shared his time and talents  
16 with the Houston Chamber of Commerce and Rotary International, and  
17 he was appointed by Governor Bill Clements to the San Jacinto Water  
18 Authority board; a man of strong faith, he was an active member of  
19 the Second Baptist Church, and he further distinguished himself as  
20 the chair of the Billy Graham Crusade for Houston and the Gulf Coast  
21 in 1981; moreover, he served with Youth for Christ for 30 years; and

22 WHEREAS, Known for his honesty and trustworthiness, he  
23 delighted in travelling, ranching, and taking on challenges, and  
24 above all, his family; he shared 64 years of marriage with his wife,  
25 Claydene, before her passing, and he welcomed three children, five  
26 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren into his family; and

27 WHEREAS, While the death of Gilbert Turner has brought much

1 sorrow to his loved ones, he has left behind a legacy that will long  
2 serve as a testament to his admirable and accomplished life; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Gilbert Manly  
6 Turner and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
7 his children, Lillian Porter and her husband, Jim, and Gregg Manly  
8 Turner; to his grandchildren, Cathy Jones and her husband, Tim,  
9 Alan Mac Neil and his wife, Julie, Andrew Mac Neil, and Cameron  
10 Turner; to his brother, Eugene Turner; to his sisters, Lucinda  
11 Elliott and Annabelle Jantzen; and to his other relatives and  
12 friends; and, be it further

13         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gilbert  
16 Manly Turner.