

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 1771

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of the Reverend Dr. Laymon H. Frank Mills
3 on March 17, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Mills was born in Troy on March 4, 1930, to
5 Laymon and Lucille Mills; he graduated from Wheatley High School in
6 1948 and worked for Jordan Ford and later Turbyville Lincoln
7 Mercury Motors as a porter and motorcycle driver; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1953, Dr. Mills was called to the ministry; he
9 preached his first sermon at Mt. Rose Baptist Church and three
10 months later was ordained at West Laurel Heights Baptist Church;
11 through the years, he supported a number of gospel groups,
12 including the Mt. Rose Gospel Singers, Kings of Harmony, P.Q.
13 Travelers, Highway Pilgrim Travelers, Greater Mt. Olive Spiritual
14 Five, and Midwest Jubilee Singers; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Mills attended Baylor Theological Seminary
16 and began his pastoral work with West Laurel Heights Baptist
17 Church; he went on to serve five other congregations before
18 assuming his final pastorate at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, where he
19 led the congregation with compassion and conviction; and

20 WHEREAS, This esteemed clergyman further distinguished
21 himself as chair of the P. S. Wilkinson Institute American Baptist
22 General Convention of Texas, the Minister's Conference American
23 Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the American Baptist
24 General Convention Foreign Mission Board; in addition, he organized

1 and led the American Baptist Eastern General Association of Texas
2 Congress as president and served the organization as first vice
3 president; and

4 WHEREAS, The patriarch of a large family, Dr. Mills enjoyed a
5 rewarding relationship with his wife, Loraine, and he was devoted
6 to his children, Larry, Kenneth, Daniel, Gary, Stephen, and Rodney
7 Mills, Carolyn Rhodes, James Bryant, and Zelda Hildreth, who
8 preceded him in death; he also took great pride in his blended
9 children, James Davis, Gwendolyn Deason, Stephanie Hayes, Brenda
10 Archield, Darryl Rodgers, and the late Jerry Davis; and

11 WHEREAS, Held in the highest regard by the members of his
12 church and the greater community, Reverend Mills brought unwavering
13 faith to all his endeavors, and memories of this fine man will
14 continue to inspire the many people whose lives he touched during
15 his years on this earth; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend Dr.
18 Laymon H. Frank Mills and extend deepest sympathy to the members of
19 his family: to his wife, Loraine Mills; to his children, Larry Mills
20 and his wife, Andrea, Kenneth Mills, Carolyn Rhodes and her
21 husband, James, Daniel Mills and his wife, Brenda, Gary Mills and
22 his wife, Carrie, Stephen Mills, Rodney Mills and his wife, Angie,
23 and James Bryant and his wife, Ebony; to his blended children, James
24 Davis and his wife, Connie, Gwendolyn Deason, Stephanie Hayes,
25 Brenda Archield and her husband, Paul, and Darryl Rodgers and his
26 wife, Bonita; to his 27 grandchildren and his 21
27 great-grandchildren; to his sister, Anna Mae White; and to his

1 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
5 Reverend Dr. Laymon H. Frank Mills.

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