

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1966

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The remarkable life of an esteemed religious leader
2 came to an end with the passing of the Reverend David Wilkerson of
3 Lindale on April 27, 2011, at the age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Hammond, Indiana, on May 19, 1931, David
5 Wilkerson entered the ministry in the 1950s and served as the pastor
6 of several small churches in Pennsylvania; in 1958, he had an
7 inspired moment when he saw a picture in *Life* magazine of seven New
8 York City teenagers who had been charged with murder; he decided
9 then to go to the city and minister to young people who had become
10 involved with drugs and gang activity; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Wilkerson's efforts in their behalf over
12 the next several years were chronicled in the best-selling book *The*
13 *Cross and the Switchblade*, which he wrote along with John and
14 Elizabeth Sherrill; since being published in 1963, it has sold more
15 than 50 million copies in more than 30 languages and was named one
16 of the "Top 50 Books That Have Shaped Evangelicals" by *Christianity*
17 *Today*; a film version of the chronicle was released in 1970; and

18 WHEREAS, Seeking to expand his efforts to address drug
19 addiction among the young, Reverend Wilkerson started Teen
20 Challenge ministries in 1959, and it eventually grew to more than
21 400 centers around the world; in 1967, he founded David Wilkerson
22 Youth Crusades in order to help middle-class teenagers avoid the
23 dangers of substance abuse, crime, and violence; and

24 WHEREAS, Another initiative pioneered by this innovative

1 leader was the CURE Corps, or Collegiate Urban Renewal Effort, a
2 Christ-centered service organization that followed the model of the
3 Peace Corps and Vista; and

4 WHEREAS, After more than a decade in New York City, Reverend
5 Wilkerson relocated his ministry headquarters to Lindale, and
6 through the years his operations came to include rehabilitation
7 centers, a publishing enterprise, video production, and other
8 avenues of evangelism; he continued to write and eventually
9 authored more than 30 books; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1986, Reverend Wilkerson was drawn again to New
11 York City; in this instance, he was moved by the plight of
12 preadolescents he saw on 42nd Street who were using crack cocaine;
13 in response, he started the Times Square Church, which opened the
14 following year and today has nearly 8,000 members; and

15 WHEREAS, For more than five decades, the Reverend David
16 Wilkerson devoted himself to helping those in need, and his legacy
17 will continue to serve as a beacon of inspiration to others who are
18 carrying on that vital work; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Reverend David
21 Wilkerson and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
22 family: to his wife, Gwen; to his 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and
23 2 great-grandchildren; to his other relatives; and to his friends
24 and the members and supporters of his ministry; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Reverend

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1 Wilkerson.