

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Abilene gathered at the
2 William G. and Shirley Swenson Home on April 10, 2011, to celebrate
3 its designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark; and

4 WHEREAS, Designed by Abilene architect William P. Preston,
5 the two-story structure was completed around 1910 for the family of
6 William Gray Swenson; this first generation Swedish-American
7 entrepreneur and civic leader held key positions at Citizens
8 National Bank from its founding in 1902 until the 1960s; as
9 president of Abilene Light and the Abilene Ice Company, he brought
10 vital improvements to the city's infrastructure; he was also
11 instrumental in the establishment of the Abilene and Northern
12 Railroad and the Roscoe, Snyder, and Pacific Railroad and served as
13 a director of both railways; moreover, he was involved in the
14 development and construction of numerous major buildings that
15 continue to grace downtown Abilene today; and

16 WHEREAS, The Swenson Home features the broad overhangs and
17 long, horizontal lines indicative of the Prairie architectural
18 style, along with Mission-inspired elements such as the quatrefoil
19 windows and a curved dormer over the front entrance; in 1928, the
20 6,300-square-foot residence underwent exterior modification as the
21 original cypress siding was covered with a brick veneer, the wood
22 shake roof was converted to clay tile, and a grape arbor was added;
23 the finely crafted interior features a grand staircase often used
24 as a setting for formal photographs; and

1 WHEREAS, Until 1986, the home remained in the Swenson family;
2 Sue Edmunda Stubbeman, a granddaughter of the original owner and
3 the wife of former state representative David Stubbeman, proposed
4 that it be donated to the Abilene Preservation League, and that
5 organization continues to own and maintain it today; and

6 WHEREAS, Thought to be the largest and most intact early
7 20th-century residence in the city, the Swenson Home has been
8 considered an Abilene landmark since the time of its construction,
9 and it is indeed fitting that it has received the highest honor that
10 the state can bestow on a historic structure; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the William G. and
13 Shirley Swenson Home as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and
14 commend all those involved in preserving this irreplaceable
15 treasure.

King of Taylor

H.R. No. 1998

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1998 was adopted by the House on May 26, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House