

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 25

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lela and Vernon Johnson of Houston are celebrating
2 their 66th wedding anniversary on July 27, 2013, and they may
3 reflect with joy on a rewarding and lasting relationship that began
4 with a storybook romance; and

5 WHEREAS, At age six, Vernon Johnson was attending school in a
6 one-room schoolhouse in rural Louisiana when a young girl named
7 Lela Davis caught his eye; though unspoken for many years, his
8 affection for her never wavered, even after he was transferred to
9 another school in the fourth grade; in 1943, the pair were reunited
10 when they ran into one another at a grocery store shortly before
11 Mr. Johnson was to be deployed to serve in World War II; he summoned
12 the courage to ask for her address, so that he could write to her
13 from wherever he was based; and

14 WHEREAS, Through his three years of military service,
15 Mr. Johnson sent Miss Davis innumerable love letters, including one
16 in which he expressed his wish to marry her but asked that she
17 postpone her answer until he had returned; when he was released from
18 active duty, their courtship officially began as they finished
19 school in Natchitoches, Louisiana; out of what was once a
20 friendship between schoolmates, true love blossomed, and the two
21 were joined in matrimony at the home of Mr. Johnson's parents in
22 July 1947; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson moved to Houston in 1949,
24 eventually settling in the Pleasantville neighborhood; they became

1 the proud parents of four daughters, Barbara Johnson-Jefferson,
2 Linda Johnson-Roy, LaVern Johnson, and Monica Johnson-Smith;
3 through the years, they have seen their family grow to include a
4 son-in-law, Michael Smith, as well as five grandchildren, Kim Roy,
5 Toni Jefferson, Morgan Smith, Meagan Smith, and Bryan
6 Bostick, an honorary granddaughter, Kristin Stapleton, four
7 great-grandchildren, Alicia and Sharelle Jefferson and Tiffany and
8 Jordan Roy, and a great-great-granddaughter, Toni-Logan Williams;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Respected members of their community, Mr. Johnson
11 worked at Weingarten Grocery and later operated a remodeling
12 business, while Mrs. Johnson was employed as an EKG technician; now
13 enjoying retirement together, both are longtime congregants at
14 Mt. Olive Baptist Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Although much has changed in the world since they
16 exchanged vows on that special day in 1947, this inspiring husband
17 and wife have remained true to their promise of lifelong
18 commitment, and it is a pleasure to join their admiring circle of
19 loved ones in honoring them at this time; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Lela and
22 Vernon Johnson on their 66 years of marriage and extend to them
23 warmest best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Johnson as an expression of high regard
26 by the Texas House of Representatives.