

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1365

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ellis Davis, Jr., a respected coach and teacher in
2 the Dallas public schools, passed away on March 13, 2013, at the age
3 of 81, and the loss is keenly felt by all who were privileged to know
4 him; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on October 11, 1931, in Tyler to Ellis Davis,
6 Sr., and Ara Williams Davis, Ellis Davis, Jr., graduated from
7 Emmett Scott High School in his hometown; he served his country in
8 the United States Army and earned a bachelor's degree from Bishop
9 College, where he was active in the Omega Psi Phi fraternity; later,
10 he received a master's degree in education from North Texas State
11 University; and

12 WHEREAS, After settling in Dallas, Mr. Davis became a member
13 of Good Street Baptist Church, and he served the congregation as a
14 deacon, as an athletic director, and as a member of the outreach
15 ministry and the Good Street Charitable Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, During his long career with the Dallas Independent
17 School District, Mr. Davis taught classes at the elementary, middle
18 school, and high school levels, and he became particularly well
19 known for his distinguished service as the basketball coach at
20 Roosevelt High School; after fielding the school's first team in
21 1963, he went on to establish a 641-128 record over the course of 23
22 years; one of the highlights of his decades on the sideline came in
23 1972, when the Mustangs claimed the 4A state championship and
24 scored a record-high 111 points in a semifinal game; he also guided

1 Roosevelt to the state tournament on another occasion, and he
2 placed a strong emphasis on helping his athletes to excel in the
3 classroom as well as on the court; revered by his players and his
4 peers, he was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame in
5 1996, and his name graces a Dallas ISD basketball facility and a
6 basketball tournament; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis married the love of his life, Betty Joe
8 Dennis, in 1957, and they shared a rewarding relationship that
9 spanned more than half a century; he became the father of three
10 sons, Dennis Davis, Rodney Davis, and Ellis Davis III, who preceded
11 his father in death, as well as a daughter, Marriette Spates; with
12 the passing years, he saw his family grow to include five
13 grandchildren; and

14 WHEREAS, Ellis Davis, Jr., devoted himself to the worthy goal
15 of helping students to learn the values of responsibility and hard
16 work, and he will long be remembered for the integrity that he
17 demonstrated in all of his endeavors; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ellis Davis, Jr., and
20 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
21 wife, Betty Joe Davis; to his sons, Dennis Wayne Davis and Rodney
22 Dwain Davis; to his daughter, Marriette Spates; to his
23 grandchildren, Ellis, Juston, Rodney, Daryan, and Anjouly; to his
24 daughter-in-law, Valerie Davis; and to his other relatives and
25 friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 1365

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ellis
2 Davis, Jr.