

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Terrell lost an esteemed former  
2 educator and administrator with the passing of Gilbert Willie, Sr.,  
3 on February 28, 2013, at the age of 74; and

4           WHEREAS, A 1957 graduate of Burnett High School, Mr. Willie  
5 received his bachelor's degree in science from Prairie View A&M  
6 University, where he played on the baseball and football teams; he  
7 later earned a master's degree in education from East Texas State  
8 University; and

9           WHEREAS, Gilbert Willie began his tenure with Terrell  
10 Independent School District in 1962 as a teacher and coach; he then  
11 served as an assistant principal for several years, and in 1979, he  
12 was named principal; in 1984, he became the district's first  
13 African American assistant superintendent, and he served in that  
14 position until his retirement in 1996; and

15           WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Willie received a number of  
16 accolades for his outstanding service to the district; in 1984, he  
17 was nominated for the Administrator of the Year award given by the  
18 Association of Texas Professional Educators, and in 1987, he was  
19 among the inaugural class inducted into the Terrell ISD Tiger Hall  
20 of Fame; in 2001, the Furlough-Willie Scholarship Foundation was  
21 established to assist Terrell ISD graduates and was named in honor  
22 of Mr. Willie and his friend and colleague, Herman Furlough, Jr.;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, In addition to his work at Terrell ISD, this dynamic

1 Texan, known to many as "Coach Willie," taught physical education  
2 courses at Southwestern Christian College and served as a referee  
3 for collegiate games hosted at Burnett High School; moreover, he  
4 was a deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church and was an active member of  
5 the Terrell Jaycees and the Kiwanis Club; and

6 WHEREAS, The devoted husband of Barbara Willie, Mr. Willie  
7 was also the proud father of three children, Maria, Gilbert, and  
8 Gerald; and

9 WHEREAS, Gilbert Willie made an indelible impression on the  
10 hearts of all who were privileged to know him, and his legacy will  
11 continue to resonate in his community for years to come; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Gilbert Willie, Sr.,  
15 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family and to his  
16 many friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gilbert  
20 Willie, Sr.

Gooden

H.R. No. 1830

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1830 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 8, 2013.

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Chief Clerk of the House