

By: Gooden

H.R. No. 1830

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.