

By: White

H.R. No. 2241

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Tyler lost an admired business and  
2 community leader with the death of Ralph Leonard Davis on April 3,  
3 2013, at the age of 86; and

4           WHEREAS, Ralph Davis was born on August 11, 1926, in Houston,  
5 the only child of Herman and Rebecca Freedman Davis; raised in  
6 Livingston, Mr. Davis was class president at Livingston High  
7 School, and he attended Shriner College before returning home to  
8 help his mother run his family's business, the Fair Store, when his  
9 father became ill; and

10           WHEREAS, After honorably serving in the U.S. Army, he moved  
11 to Tyler and purchased two dress shops, which he grew into a  
12 thriving business, the R. L. Davis Manufacturing Company; he  
13 expanded the organization further when the U.S. Army contracted him  
14 to make pants during the Vietnam War; the company was a founding  
15 member of Dallas' World Trade Center, and Mr. Davis later opened  
16 R. L. Davis Fine Gifts and The Christmas Store; and

17           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan contributed to his community as  
18 president of the Texas Rose Festival and the Tyler Museum of Art; he  
19 was also devoted to many civic and charitable causes, including  
20 Congregation Beth El, the Jewish Federation of Tyler, Mother  
21 Frances Hospital-Tyler, the East Texas Symphony Orchestra, and the  
22 Shriners; and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Davis shared a rewarding 26-year marriage with  
24 his wife, Judith Sugerman Davis; after her passing, he was blessed

1 to find love again with Gloria Kusin Bishkin, whom he married in  
2 2002; and

3 WHEREAS, Although Ralph Davis will be deeply missed, memories  
4 of his kindness, generosity, and wonderful sense of humor will long  
5 endure in the hearts of all those who shared in the richness of his  
6 life; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ralph Leonard Davis  
9 and extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Gloria Bishkin Davis, and  
10 to his other family members and friends, including Cathy, Will,  
11 Charlie, and Gary Golden, Lori and Sara Stahl, and Bruce, Jim,  
12 Tracey, and Jane Bishkin; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ralph  
16 Leonard Davis.