

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1318

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Henry S. Brown of San Antonio, a legendary figure in  
2 the Texas labor movement, passed away on January 21, 2015, at the  
3 age of 94, after a lifetime of distinguished achievement in behalf  
4 of his fellow man; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on October 24, 1920, to Stan and Sophia Brown of  
6 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "Hank" Brown fought for the values in  
7 which he believed from an early age, leaving home to serve his  
8 country as a member of the U.S. Army; he subsequently moved to San  
9 Antonio, where he first became involved in a union as a plumber's  
10 helper and then business agent with Local 142; and

11 WHEREAS, Driven by a concern for all working men and women,  
12 Mr. Brown went on to join the Texas AFL-CIO and was named the  
13 organization's president in 1961; a masterful orator and fierce  
14 negotiator, he advocated for civil rights, helped craft an  
15 important worker's compensation law for Texas, established the  
16 Women's Activities Department, and created the United Labor  
17 Legislative Committee; during his decade-long tenure as AFL-CIO  
18 president, he also served on boards as an appointee of Presidents  
19 John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson; and

20 WHEREAS, He left his position with the AFL-CIO to become the  
21 vice president of public relations for the American Income Life  
22 Insurance Company, but he remained extraordinarily active in labor  
23 relations well into his nineties, promoting retiree councils,  
24 inspiring others with his moving speeches, and participating in

1 AFL-CIO conventions; and

2 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Brown enjoyed the love  
3 and support of his wife, the former Sophie Wegmann, with whom he  
4 shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 70 years; the couple were  
5 the proud parents of two sons, Henry and Gerald, and a daughter,  
6 Sophie; and

7 WHEREAS, An unswerving leader, Hank Brown worked tirelessly  
8 throughout his life to advance the cause of the Texas AFL-CIO and  
9 the labor movement, and his contributions to aid working families  
10 will continue to benefit residents of the Lone Star State for many  
11 years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Hank Brown and  
14 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his sons,  
15 Henry Brown Jr. and his wife, Judy, and Gerald Brown and his wife,  
16 Merrilou; to his daughter, Sophie McCoy, and her husband, James; to  
17 his brother, Ray Brown; to his 10 grandchildren and 15  
18 great-grandchildren; to his nieces and nephews; and to his other  
19 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Henry S.  
23 Brown.