

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 2142

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Countless lives were touched by the faith and
2 leadership of Elder Cecil Ray Proctor of DeSoto, who passed away on
3 April 10, 2015, at the age of 69; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Herman and Esther Alexander Proctor,
5 Elder Proctor was born on August 11, 1945, in Marquez and was
6 educated in the Frost school district; he married the love of his
7 life, the former Mollie Sharper, on April 25, 1970, and they became
8 the parents of five treasured children, Dawn, Yolanda, LaKitsha,
9 Rachel, and Gilbert; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1978, Cecil Proctor felt called to the ministry
11 and began hosting a small Bible study group in his home; he became a
12 licensed minister in the Church of God in Christ in 1987 and an
13 ordained elder in 1989; shortly afterward, he organized the
14 Neighborhood House of Prayer in Dallas, a church he guided with
15 selfless devotion for close to four decades; and

16 WHEREAS, Seeking additional ways to serve the community,
17 Elder Proctor established the Neighborhood Christian Learning
18 Center of Dallas, a licensed early childhood facility that partners
19 with the Dallas Independent School District pre-K school readiness
20 initiative; known to youngsters at NCLC of Dallas as "PaPa," Elder
21 Proctor led the center as its administrator until his health
22 declined, and he saw it recognized by the Texas Education Agency as
23 a Pre-K Center of Excellence; to date, the center has provided
24 services to more than 2,500 children in Dallas County; Elder

1 Proctor was also responsible for founding the Neighborhood Outreach
2 Center of Hope, a 24-hour, faith-based rehabilitation facility and
3 shelter for former inmates and individuals recovering from
4 substance abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed clergyman also rendered outstanding
6 service to the Texas East Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church
7 of God in Christ; in 1984, he became the first adjutant to Bishop
8 James Edward Lee Sr., and he served additionally as assistant to
9 Superintendent Robert L. Nichols Sr. in the Spiritual Life
10 District; and

11 WHEREAS, Elder Proctor endeared himself to those in and
12 outside his congregation with his sunny demeanor and contagious
13 smile; he reached a wide audience in the Dallas/Fort Worth area
14 through his weekly "Prayer of Faith" radio broadcast, and he often
15 gathered with other pastors, politicians, and local leaders to
16 enjoy a meal and discuss how they could make their community
17 stronger; in 2006, he was honored for his myriad good works with his
18 induction into the Elite News Religious Hall of Fame; and

19 WHEREAS, With his kind and caring ways, Elder Cecil Ray
20 Proctor uplifted the hearts of numerous people, and he will long be
21 remembered with deep affection by his loved ones and by the dear
22 friends he made along life's journey; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Elder Cecil Ray
25 Proctor and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
26 his wife, Mollie M. Proctor; to his daughters, Dawn Washington,
27 Yolanda Coleman and her husband, Anthony, LaKitsha Lee and her

1 husband, James, and Rachel Proctor; to his grandchildren, Keithan
2 Proctor, Jacniqua Washington, Christopher Washington, Shaquira
3 Walker, Jaya Lee, and James Lee III; to his great-grandchildren,
4 Niriyah Gahagan and Khrist'jan Walker; to his siblings, Christine
5 Cotton, Vernel Smith, Eloise Fields, and Johnny Proctor; to his
6 special son, the Reverend Mark Proctor, and his wife, Michelle; and
7 to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elder Cecil
11 Ray Proctor.