

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 2284

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Bill O'Neal was named 2014 Citizen of the Year at the
2 69th Annual Panola County Chamber of Commerce membership banquet
3 held on February 19, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan taught history at Panola College
5 for close to four decades; his lessons are fondly remembered by
6 countless former students, some of whom were the second generation
7 in their families to take his classes; in recognition of his
8 outstanding contributions to the college, a new dormitory has been
9 named in his honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal has immersed himself in the history of
11 Texas and has penned over 40 books in that field; his knowledge of
12 and passion for the subject led to his appointment as State
13 Historian of Texas in 2012, and in 2014, he became the first person
14 to be named to a second term in that position; as the ambassador for
15 Texas history, he has traveled extensively to extol the rich
16 heritage of the Lone Star State, addressing classrooms of children
17 as well as teachers, civic groups, and historical clubs; and

18 WHEREAS, Along the way, Bill O'Neal has remained deeply
19 rooted in the county he calls home; he is an active member of
20 Central Baptist Church in Carthage, where he volunteers as church
21 historian and as a Sunday school leader, and he has served as chair
22 of the building committee; he has also served on the board of Panola
23 General Hospital, and he is a current board member for the local
24 branch of Hochheim Prairie Insurance; and

1 WHEREAS, A former broadcaster for KGAS Radio, Mr. O'Neal
2 continues to appear as a guest on the station's *Panola Pride* show;
3 for more than 30 years, he was the "Voice of the Panola Ponies," and
4 he has broadcast events for numerous other teams in the area, in
5 addition to serving as a founding member of several local
6 children's sports leagues; and

7 WHEREAS, Bill O'Neal's public-spirited contributions are an
8 inspiration to all who know him, and with his receipt of this
9 well-deserved honor, he may indeed reflect with pride on the many
10 ways that he has enriched the lives of fellow Texans near and far;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Bill O'Neal on his selection as the
14 2014 Citizen of the Year by the Panola County Chamber of Commerce
15 and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. O'Neal as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.