

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 2286

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Carlton Earl Land of Houston on April 20, 2015, at the
3 age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Peary and George Ann Land, Carlton Land
5 was born on February 1, 1943, in Jacksonville and raised in Houston;
6 he graduated with honors from Jack Yates Senior High School in 1961
7 and went on to enlist in the United States Air Force in September of
8 the following year; he served his country with distinction for
9 three decades before retiring with the rank of chief master
10 sergeant in 1992; during his decorated military career, he was
11 awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak
12 leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak
13 leaf clusters; and

14 WHEREAS, On his return to civilian life, Mr. Land joined the
15 Houston Independent School District, where he initiated the Air
16 Force Junior ROTC program at Westbury High School; he was assigned
17 to serve as the lead student advocate in the School Administration
18 Division in 1994, and around that time, he was instrumental in
19 founding a program focused on helping African American and Hispanic
20 male students acquire important social and life skills;
21 additionally, he conducted workshops to address bullying,
22 violence, hazing, gang involvement, and other issues, and he
23 further gave back to area children through his support of the
24 Children's Defense Fund and his work as a popular "Read-Aloud"

1 guest at HYPE Freedom School; and

2 WHEREAS, A devout Christian from a young age, Mr. Land became
3 a member of Promised Land Christian Worship Center Church in 2004
4 and generously volunteered his time as director of the men's
5 ministry; he earned a bachelor's degree from the College of
6 Biblical Studies in 2005 and was an accomplished writer and
7 sought-after speaker on religious, military, educational, and
8 civic affairs; moreover, he was a prominent member of the Most
9 Worshipful Saint John Grand Lodge and Hadassah Grand Chapter and
10 had served as potentate of Arabia Shrine Temple No. 1; more
11 recently, he had been inducted into the Ancient and Primitive Rite
12 of Memphis-Misraim, where he had the distinction of receiving his
13 95th degree as Grand Conservator General; and

14 WHEREAS, This esteemed gentleman married Betty Jean Riley on
15 October 22, 1966, and shared a rewarding relationship with her
16 until her passing; he was the father of three children, Janice,
17 Gregory, and Carlton, and was further blessed with the
18 companionship of a large extended family and many longtime friends;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Carlton Land inspired countless people with his
21 earnest faith, his desire to make a difference, and his steadfast
22 service to his country and community, and he leaves behind a legacy
23 that will long be treasured by all those who held him dear; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Carlton Earl Land and
27 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his

1 children, Janice Barney and Gregory Riley; to his sister and
2 brother, Carolyn and Louis DeVaughn; to his sisters-in-law, Shirley
3 Land, Iola Fogle, and Diane Riley; to his brother-in-law, Luther
4 Burrell; to his special friend, Gail Revis; and to his other
5 relatives and friends; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carlton
9 Land.