

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 2444

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, John M. Turner of Dallas has rendered exceptional  
2 service to visually impaired individuals in his community and  
3 across the state, and his efforts have enriched the lives of  
4 countless Texans; and

5           WHEREAS, After losing his sight completely by age 17,  
6 Mr. Turner earned a bachelor of business administration degree in  
7 marketing from the University of North Texas, where he was elected  
8 student body president; he went on to become one of the most  
9 successful insurance agents in Dallas, working first with  
10 Massachusetts Mutual and since 1970 as an independent broker; and

11           WHEREAS, A tireless advocate for the visually impaired,  
12 Mr. Turner served for more than three decades on the Texas  
13 Commission for the Blind, and he was appointed chair of the board by  
14 Governors Ann Richards and George W. Bush; he also served for 21  
15 years on the board of Dallas Services for Visually Impaired  
16 Children, for 22 years on the board of Dallas Lighthouse for the  
17 Blind, and for 23 years on the board of the Retina Foundation of the  
18 Southwest; in addition, he has been a member of the boards of Dallas  
19 Taping for the Blind and The Seeing Eye, as well as a member of the  
20 Texas Committee on Purchases of Products and Services of Blind and  
21 Severely Disabled Persons; moreover, he has mentored a number of  
22 young men who are blind, encouraging them to persevere in realizing  
23 their full potential; and

24           WHEREAS, John Turner has further given of his time and

1 energies to the YMCA, coaching the Park Cities boys baseball team,  
2 chairing a membership drive for the downtown Y, and assisting Camp  
3 Grady Spruce as a membership quota buster; he has also served on the  
4 board of trustees of the Leukemia Society of America Dallas  
5 Chapter; and

6 WHEREAS, In recognition of his outstanding civic engagement,  
7 Mr. Turner has received a number of well-deserved accolades; The  
8 Seeing Eye presented him with the 1995 Morris Frank Award, which  
9 honors graduates of The Seeing Eye who have achieved professional  
10 success and who have helped to create opportunities for the  
11 visually impaired, and in 1997, KRLD News Radio in Dallas named him  
12 Citizen of the Week; in 2000, this esteemed Texan received the  
13 Catherine T. "Kay" Gallagher Award from the American Foundation for  
14 the Blind Southwest; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, John Turner has set an  
16 inspiring example of leadership and professional excellence, and  
17 his significant efforts in behalf of his fellow citizens are truly  
18 deserving of commendation; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby honor John M. Turner for his extensive service  
21 to those who are visually impaired and for his many other civic  
22 contributions and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future;  
23 and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mr. Turner as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
26 House of Representatives.