

By: Metcalf

H.R. No. 3353

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Austin lost two beloved residents with
2 the passing of Dorothy Louise Nelson on April 21, 2015, at the age
3 of 92, and of her husband, Edward M. Nelson Jr., on May 16, 2015, at
4 the age of 90; and

5 WHEREAS, The former Dorothy Cornforth was born to John and
6 Ruby Cornforth on November 7, 1922, in Taylor, and she graduated
7 from Taylor High School; and

8 WHEREAS, Edward Nelson Jr. was born in Shreveport, Louisiana,
9 on December 5, 1924, to Edward Nelson Sr. and Florence Nelson; an
10 alumnus of John H. Reagan High School in Houston, he answered his
11 nation's call to duty during World War II by enlisting in the United
12 States Navy; after completing training in Pass Christian,
13 Mississippi, he served at sea for six months, delivering fuel to air
14 bases in Iceland, England, and Scotland; he subsequently attended
15 the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, where he received a bachelor of
16 science degree, and following his military service, he earned a
17 degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Texas at
18 Austin; and

19 WHEREAS, The couple exchanged vows of matrimony on June 15,
20 1946, and over the course of nearly seven decades together, they
21 nurtured a rewarding union that was made even richer with the
22 addition of two children, Edward and Deborah, as well as four
23 grandchildren, Alexander, Charlie, Emily, and Travis, and a
24 great-grandson, Barrett; and

1 WHEREAS, After beginning his career in the petrochemical
2 industry along the Gulf Coast of Texas, Mr. Nelson was hired by
3 J. Ray McDermott in 1961, and his job soon took him and his wife
4 across the globe, with assignments in such cities as The Hague,
5 Beirut, Brussels, and London; he spearheaded efforts to set up a
6 marine supply base in Great Yarmouth, England, and a docking space
7 for offshore construction vessels in Amsterdam, and he later
8 purchased 800 acres of land near Inverness, Scotland, for a
9 fabrication facility; in the latter part of his career, he
10 negotiated contracts in Switzerland, England, China, and Brazil,
11 and Mrs. Nelson ably managed their household transfers, finances,
12 children's schooling, and many other needs, even while in
13 environments of foreign customs and languages; and

14 WHEREAS, Active in community life, Mr. Nelson served as a
15 member of the Baytown Independent School District board of trustees
16 and as president and a board member of Vaughn House, a charity that
17 aids deaf adults with mental disabilities, and Mrs. Nelson made
18 beautiful quilts for the homeless and for immigrant families
19 through Refugee Services of Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, The Nelsons also were deeply devoted to their
21 Christian faith, and over the years, they taught Sunday school at
22 University United Methodist Church in Austin and St. Mark's United
23 Methodist Church in Baytown and volunteered with Kingdom Kamp, an
24 annual retreat for adults with mental disabilities; moreover, they
25 were founding members of the American International Church in
26 London as well as valued congregants of Faith United Methodist
27 Church in Austin and later Riverbend Church, where they contributed

1 to the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Ministry and where Mr. Nelson led
2 the men's Bible study group; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout their lives, Edward and Dorothy Nelson
4 remained dedicated to their faith, their family, and to one
5 another, and though they are deeply missed, the couple left behind a
6 notable legacy that will continue to resonate in their community
7 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Edward M. Nelson
10 Jr. and Dorothy Louise Nelson and extend sincere condolences to the
11 members of their family: to their children, Edward and his wife,
12 Olga, and Deborah and her husband, Wayne; to their grandchildren,
13 Alexander, Charlie, Emily, and Travis; to their great-grandson,
14 Barrett; and to their other relatives and many friends; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for their family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Edward
19 Nelson Jr. and Dorothy Nelson.