

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 3366

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly
2 cause for celebration, and John Jesse Balthazar of Houston reached
3 that impressive milestone on May 6, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Jesse Balthazar was born in 1915 in Natchitoches,
5 Louisiana, to Louis and Rosa Balthazar, and he moved with his mother
6 and two sisters to Houston at the age of nine; after graduating from
7 Phillis Wheatley High School, he went to work in a drugstore, and it
8 was while he was employed there that he met his future wife, the
9 former Vernice Frilot; the couple were married in 1941, only three
10 days before he left for basic training with the U.S. Army; and

11 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Balthazar served with an
12 engineering battalion, and he endured extremes of climate, helping
13 to build a highway in Alaska and then serving in the tropical
14 jungles of New Guinea, where he contracted malaria; and

15 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Balthazar built a home in
16 Houston's Fifth Ward with his father-in-law, and he and
17 Mrs. Balthazar still live there today, some 70 years later; now
18 retired, Mr. Balthazar enjoyed a rewarding career with the U.S.
19 Postal Service, and he became one of the first African American
20 supervisors in Houston's downtown post office; he also operated a
21 gas station and a variety store for a time with his wife and his
22 sister; Mr. and Mrs. Balthazar have both been active members of the
23 National Association of Retired Federal Employees; and

24 WHEREAS, A man of strong religious faith, Mr. Balthazar has

1 been a leading member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church for
2 decades, helping to establish a men's choir, raising funds to build
3 a new building, and serving as cofounder of the church's credit
4 union, which he also managed for many years; he has been active as
5 well with the church's bazaar and golf tournament, and he is a
6 longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of Peter
7 Claver; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Balthazar continues to enjoy listening to big
9 band music and the blues, swinging his golf club, fishing, working
10 in his yard, and taking care of his dog; he takes special pleasure
11 in the time he spends with his children, Jesse Jude, Sidney Louis,
12 and Irma Rose, and his grandchildren, Jesse, Tia, Craig, Jerrald,
13 Kimberly, Ann, Mamie, and Mary; and

14 WHEREAS, Blessed with a host of loved ones and sustained by
15 his strong faith, Jesse Balthazar has gracefully reached the
16 century mark and continues to enrich the lives of all those who are
17 fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate John Jesse Balthazar on his 100th
20 birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
21 happiness; and, be it further

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