

By: Springer

H.R. No. 151

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Kinne's Jewelers in Gainesville has been named the
2 recipient of a Texas Treasure Business Award by the Texas
3 Historical Commission, which recognizes companies that have
4 employed Texans and contributed to the state's economy for 50 years
5 or more; and

6 WHEREAS, On November 28, 1889, watchmaker W. B. Kinne opened
7 his shop in a small niche under a stairway in the Ben Brooks Drug
8 Store; the growing business moved a number of times before settling
9 into its present-day location in 1913; and

10 WHEREAS, W. B. Kinne eventually brought his sons into the
11 business, and following his death in 1945, William Kinne Jr. and
12 Harry Kinne continued to operate it; in 1959, they hired a
13 watchmaker, Francis A. Wiese, and when Harry Kinne retired in 1974,
14 Mr. Wiese took over the store; he appreciated its rich history and
15 not only kept the original showcases, but also ventured into the
16 attic to find decorative antiques, including the 1896 Waterbury
17 clock that has been a focal point ever since; moreover, he created a
18 jewelry museum on the mezzanine level; and

19 WHEREAS, Like his predecessors, Mr. Wiese raised his
20 children in the business, and his daughter, Gina Dill, completed a
21 bachelor's degree in metalsmithing and jewelry at the University of
22 North Texas; she and her brother, Jack Wiese, bought the firm in
23 1990, and she became the sole owner six years later; in 2007, she
24 created her own line of sterling silver wax seal jewelry, which is a

1 certified Go Texan product; her daughter, Jamie Davis, now designs
2 jewelry as well; the store building was recently renovated with a
3 grant from the Local Main Street Organization, and while the
4 establishment is steeped in tradition, it also employs modern
5 technology, such as CAD design and laser welding; it is a member of
6 the JA 100 Club, an association of American jewelry stores more than
7 100 years old; and

8 WHEREAS, Kinne's Jewelers has played a vital role in the
9 Gainesville business community for well over a century, and it is
10 truly deserving of this prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Kinne's
13 Jewelers on its receipt of a Texas Treasure Business Award from the
14 Texas Historical Commission and extend to all those associated with
15 this venerable firm sincere best wishes for continued success; and,
16 be it further

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