

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 death of Donald Benjamin Fielding of Dallas, who passed away on  
3 January 20, 2017, at the age of 94; and

4           WHEREAS, Donald Fielding was born in Dallas on July 7, 1922;  
5 he graduated from Forest Avenue High School as valedictorian at the  
6 age of 15, and that same year he enrolled in the Wharton School at  
7 the University of Pennsylvania, in pursuit of a career in the  
8 foreign service; and

9           WHEREAS, After graduating from the Wharton School in 1942,  
10 Mr. Fielding attended the University of Havana briefly before his  
11 induction into the U.S. Army; he attended the Infantry Officer  
12 Candidate School and went on to serve as an operations and training  
13 staff officer until his discharge at the rank of second lieutenant  
14 in 1946; and

15           WHEREAS, Following his return to Dallas, Mr. Fielding joined  
16 the family business, National Shoes, where he worked for 42 years,  
17 opening several additional locations in 1958, 1968, and 1977;  
18 National Shoes was the oldest family-owned business in downtown  
19 Dallas at the time, and, thanks to Mr. Fielding, the first downtown  
20 retail establishment to hire an African American salesman; the  
21 business also joined with a charity, Brother Bill's Helping Hand,  
22 to provide shoes to needy children; and

23           WHEREAS, A powerful voice in Dallas politics from the 1960s  
24 until the 1990s, Mr. Fielding took a particular interest in

1 education; he played a leading role in the establishment of the  
2 Citizens' Committee for Better Schools and the League for  
3 Educational Advancement in Dallas, which provided textbooks to poor  
4 and underserved students in South and West Dallas, and he founded  
5 Operation Employment, a Neighborhood Youth Corps project that  
6 helped school dropouts obtain meaningful and productive work; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Fielding also helped found Citizens for  
8 Representative Government, a group that was instrumental in pushing  
9 for single-member districts; an active participant in the civil  
10 rights movement, he marched for the integration of the Piccadilly  
11 Cafeteria; he held several leadership positions in the Boy Scouts  
12 of America, including chair of the High Trail Scout District, and he  
13 started the first Hispanic Boy Scout troop in West Dallas;  
14 moreover, he was the author of a book, *Assassination and Education:  
15 A Guide to Dallas*; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Fielding married Virginia Lee Tipton in 1950,  
17 and they shared a rewarding union that spanned 63 years, until her  
18 death in 2013; the couple were the proud parents of four children,  
19 Ronnie, Linda, B. Donald, and Paul, and they were blessed with many  
20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

21 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and an engaged citizen, Donald  
22 Fielding lived a life rich with purpose, and he leaves behind a  
23 record of service that his loved ones can remember with pride; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Donald Benjamin  
27 Fielding and extend sincere condolences to his relatives and

1 friends; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Donald  
5 Fielding.

Button  
Burkett  
Villalba  
Meyer

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 405

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 405 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 14, 2017.

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Chief Clerk of the House