

By: Turner

H.R. No. 1129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Grand Prairie lost an esteemed member of the  
2 community with the passing of Bobby Kenneth Steen on February 2,  
3 2017, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Odessa and Isaac Steen, Bobby Steen was  
5 born on November 15, 1931; he attended Dallas public schools and  
6 later completed his GED through the Grand Prairie Independent  
7 School District; coming of age during segregation, Mr. Steen  
8 recognized the need for lodgings to serve African American  
9 travelers; he was a 27-year-old with just a little construction  
10 experience when he designed and built Steen's Motel in the Dalworth  
11 community, which was founded by African Americans at the turn of the  
12 previous century; over the years, he welcomed myriad guests to his  
13 establishment, which featured a community kitchen and dining room,  
14 and everyone from migrant workers to prominent entertainers enjoyed  
15 his hospitality; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Steen developed such strong customer loyalty  
17 that the motel continued to thrive even after integration enabled  
18 African Americans to take advantage of more conveniently located  
19 accommodations; in addition, he had guests who became long-term  
20 residents and remained family friends after moving away; the motel  
21 was designated a Grand Prairie Significant Landmark and received a  
22 historic marker in 2007; and

23 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Steen shared a fulfilling  
24 relationship of 42 years with his wife, Gale, and he took great

1 pride in his six children, Bobby, Isaac, Glen, Darrell, Ali, and  
2 Keyma, as well as seven grandchildren and seven  
3 great-grandchildren; he was a valued member of the Faith Fellowship  
4 Baptist Church; and

5 WHEREAS, Bobby Steen lived a full and productive life  
6 surrounded by those he loved, and they will forever hold him close  
7 in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bobby Kenneth Steen  
10 and extend sincere condolences to his many relatives and friends;  
11 and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bobby  
15 Steen.