

By: Murphy

H.R. No. 1198

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For many years, James and Leeshan Chuang Birney of
2 Stone Mountain Properties have distinguished themselves through
3 their success as entrepreneurs and as civic leaders in the Houston
4 area; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from National Taiwan Normal
6 University, Leeshan Chuang Birney earned a master's degree in
7 business administration from New York University and then founded
8 the Stone Mountain Properties real estate company; James Birney
9 earned his MBA from NYU as well, and he enjoyed a long and
10 successful career on Wall Street as a founding partner of Furman,
11 Selz, Mager, Dietz, and Birney, a brokerage and investment firm,
12 before joining his wife in the family real estate business; in the
13 decades Mr. and Mrs. Birney have worked together at Stone Mountain
14 Properties, they have developed projects in Houston and New Jersey
15 and built a portfolio worth more than \$100 million; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout their careers, the Birneys have also
17 given generously of their time and resources to a wide variety of
18 institutions and community organizations; among the entities to
19 benefit from their efforts are the Houston Housing Finance
20 Corporation, the Asian American Business Council of the Asian
21 Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Community Center, the Global
22 Federation of Chinese Business Women, the Planning Board of the
23 City of Houston, and the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Birney are also supporters of the

1 Chinese American Relief Effort and the Joint Chinese College Alumni
2 Association, which has named a music scholarship in their honor; in
3 addition, they have provided funds for innumerable programs for
4 disadvantaged young people, the elderly, and the disabled, and they
5 actively promote leisure learning, literary seminars, arts
6 exhibitions, and concerts; and

7 WHEREAS, The couple's many honors include the Outstanding
8 Chinese Entrepreneur Award from Chinese21.com, the ILF Regional
9 Leadership Award, the Hua Kuan Award from the Global Federation of
10 Chinese Business Women, the Yellow Rose of Texas award from the
11 governor of Texas, the Corporate Impact Award from the Chinese
12 Professional Club, and the President's Volunteer Service Award from
13 President Barack Obama; and

14 WHEREAS, James and Leeshan Birney have furthered the
15 prosperity and well-being of the Houston area through their
16 business and philanthropic endeavors, and they are truly deserving
17 of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate James and Leeshan Chuang Birney on
20 the success of Stone Mountain Properties and commend them for their
21 many years of community service and charitable giving; and, be it
22 further

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