

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 1378

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In March 2017, Juluis and Wanda Brooks closed the
2 doors of their popular Midland restaurant, Brooks Bar-B-Que, for
3 the final time, after nearly four decades of service; and

4 WHEREAS, Married in 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks moved to
5 Midland in 1966, and in 1979, Mr. Brooks used \$5,000 in savings and
6 his experience in retail to open Brooks Bar-B-Que on Texas Avenue;
7 Mrs. Brooks quit her job with the Midland Independent School
8 District to join him in the enterprise; and

9 WHEREAS, As the restaurant began to thrive, the couple opened
10 two more locations, one on Andrews Highway in the mid-1980s and
11 another at Mission Square Plaza in the mid-1990s; when the original
12 and only still-operating location burned down in 2009, Mr. Brooks
13 rebuilt and reopened in 2010; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the business's name, its signature menu item
15 was not barbecue but rather Mr. Brooks's famous Fatburger, with a
16 patty too wide for the bun; moreover, Mrs. Brooks's homemade
17 coconut, lemon meringue, chocolate, and pecan pies attained
18 legendary status among numerous Midland residents; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks also served his community as a Midland
20 City Council member for nearly 10 years; during that time, he was
21 the city's first African American mayor pro tem, and he played a
22 vital role in the establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr.
23 Community Center and in the local programs organized in observance
24 of the MLK Day holiday; and

1 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the business was a family
2 affair; the couple's children and grandchildren worked for Brooks
3 Bar-B-Que, with son Rowland managing one of the locations and
4 daughter Natasha spending much of her early life working at the
5 restaurants as well before becoming the senior city attorney for
6 Odessa; and

7 WHEREAS, Independent, family-owned businesses that reflect
8 the spirit of their locales add richness and flavor to Texas
9 communities, and Juluis and Wanda Brooks may take great pride in
10 their successful 38-year tenure as restaurateurs as they embark on
11 the next exciting chapter of their lives; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor Juluis and Wanda Brooks for their long
14 service to the Midland area through their Brooks Bar-B-Que
15 restaurants and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future;
16 and, be it further

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