

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 2016

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Robert
2 Gaylan Duncan of Victoria, who passed away on November 13, 2016, at
3 the age of 82; and

4 WHEREAS, Gaylan Duncan was born in Tivoli on January 19,
5 1934, the youngest of the eight children of Joseph and Mamie Mae
6 Duncan; following his graduation from Austwell-Tivoli High School,
7 he attended Victoria College and went on to complete courses of
8 study at the Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science and the
9 National Foundation of Funeral Service School of Management; as a
10 young man during the Korean War, he answered his nation's call to
11 duty and served in the United States Army; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Duncan enjoyed a fulfilling career in the
13 funeral service industry that spanned five and a half decades;
14 after gaining experience at various funeral homes in Victoria and
15 Houston, he opened Colonial Funeral Home in Victoria in 1969; he
16 later expanded the business to other parts of Texas, eventually
17 operating 29 funeral homes and 3 cemeteries before his retirement
18 at the age of 81; and

19 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan was active in a host of
20 professional organizations, and in recognition of his eminent
21 stature in his field, he was selected as the 1984-1985 Outstanding
22 Funeral Director of the Year by the Texas Funeral Directors
23 Association; he also gave generously of his time and talents to a
24 host of civic, faith-based, and fraternal organizations; a life

1 member of Optimist International and president of three Rotary
2 Clubs, he chaired the Victoria County United Way and the Victoria
3 Chamber of Commerce, led the board of the Victoria Senior Citizens
4 Association, and served as a member of the Victoria Planning
5 Commission; in 1991, he was honored as the Outstanding Citizen of
6 the Year in Victoria; Mr. Duncan was additionally a longtime
7 parishioner and member of the board of Holy Family Catholic Church,
8 and he held a number of offices in the Knights of Columbus; he was
9 appointed to the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Duncan was a devoted husband to his wife, the
12 former Ella Wepreck, with whom he shared a rewarding marriage of
13 nearly six decades; today, the couple's treasured family includes
14 daughters and sons-in-law Gail and Russell Janecka and Mary and
15 Scott Joy, as well as grandchildren Robert and his wife Sarah,
16 Julie, Kevin, and Megan, and a great-grandson, Elliott; and

17 WHEREAS, Gaylan Duncan lived a rich and purposeful life
18 centered on his faith, his family, and his community, and he will
19 long be remembered with deep affection by all who knew him; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Robert Gaylan
23 Duncan and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many
24 friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gaylan

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1 Duncan.