H.R. No. 22

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The passing of admired civic leader Devoyd Jennings of Fort Worth on July 24, 2021, at the age of 73, brought a great loss to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Born in Los Angeles, California, on September 10, 1947, "Dee" Jennings was the son of William and Margaret Jennings; he grew up in Fort Worth and attended I. M. Terrell High School and Tarrant County Community College before completing his bachelor's degree in marketing at Texas Wesleyan University; in 1973, he began working for Texas Electric as a consumer specialist, and during his noteworthy 27-year career with the company, he became its first African American lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jennings was involved in many business and civic organizations and served as president and CEO of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; he was instrumental in its establishment of two leadership programs, Paths Forward and BRIDGE; in addition, he helped create two standalone organizations that directly benefit minority development, the William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation and Southeast Fort Worth Incorporated; he further served as chair of the North Texas Tollway Authority's Business Diversity Advisory Committee and worked tirelessly with public officials and others to advance minority- and women-owned businesses; deeply committed to education, he was a member of the board of Texas Wesleyan University for nearly two decades; he successfully championed the refurbishing of his old elementary school, G. W. Carver, and the reopening of I. M. Terrell as a STEM and performing arts academy; moreover, he was an active alumnus of the I. M. Terrell Class of 1966; the recipient of numerous accolades, he was honored by the City of Fort Worth in 1992 and 2005 with proclamations of Devoyd Jennings Day; he was also recognized three times by the *Fort Worth Business Press*, most recently with a 2017 Minority Leaders in Business Award; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Mr. Jennings shared a fulfilling 41-year marriage with his wife, Gwen; he took great pride in his 5 children, Charles, Robert, Demeka, Carla, and Sharla, as well as his 11 grandchildren, Gerome, Jasmine, Jordan, Isis, Kyzier, Zion, Anthony, Dominique, Lala, Jared, and Yancy, and his great-granddaughter, Princess; in his free time, he enjoyed listening to jazz and playing basketball; and

WHEREAS, Dee Jennings gave freely of his time and expertise to better his community, and his record of service will be a lasting source of inspiration to all who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Devoyd Jennings and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

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

Collier

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 22 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on September 30, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House