

By: Price

H.R. No. 786

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An exemplary life dedicated to music and education  
2 drew to a close with the death of former Amarillo College professor  
3 Dr. Dale Alvin Roller on August 24, 2020, at the age of 90; and

4 WHEREAS, Dale Roller was born to Sylvester and Hattie Belle  
5 Roller in Cleveland, Oklahoma, on February 1, 1930, and he grew up  
6 with four brothers; inspired by two older brothers and his high  
7 school music teacher, he studied music at college, earning  
8 bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tulsa, and in  
9 1974 he returned to school to earn a doctorate in music education  
10 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; during the  
11 Korean War, he served with the 657th Air Force Band, rising to the  
12 rank of sergeant; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Roller began his career by teaching piano at the  
14 University of Tulsa, and in 1956, he joined the faculty of Amarillo  
15 College; over the course of his 35-year tenure with the college,  
16 Dr. Roller taught piano, music history, and humanities, conducted  
17 the school's choirs, and rose to become head of the music  
18 department; he brought the Suzuki Program to the campus, and he  
19 served as one of the college's most charismatic ambassadors,  
20 persuading countless students across the Panhandle to apply for  
21 admission; after retirement, he served for eight years on the  
22 Amarillo College Board of Regents, including a year as chair, and he  
23 was named professor emeritus in 2005; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Roller founded the Amarillo Master

1 Chorale in 1985 and the Amarillo Youth Choir in 1989, and he also  
2 directed choirs at several area churches, including 22 years at  
3 First Christian Church; he served on many local boards, including  
4 the board of the Greater Southwest Music Festival, and for 30 years  
5 he and his wife were executive secretaries for music for Region I of  
6 the University Interscholastic League; from 2012 to 2019, he led  
7 "The Happy Timers," an ecumenical vocal group for seniors; and

8         WHEREAS, In 1956, Dr. Roller was introduced to Betty Jo  
9 Denman, a violinist for the Amarillo Symphony; the couple were  
10 married in 1957 and went on to share 60 rewarding years together,  
11 until her death in 2018; he was the proud father of three sons,  
12 Scott, Kirk, and Jeff, and later in life he was blessed with seven  
13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

14         WHEREAS, For more than six decades, Dale Roller was an  
15 inspiring teacher, musician, and cultural leader in Amarillo,  
16 bringing the gift of music to his fellow citizens and to generations  
17 of students, and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to  
18 inspire all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

19         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dale Alvin Roller  
21 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
22 sons, Scott Roller, Kirk Roller and his wife, Anne, and Jeff Roller  
23 and his wife, Carol; to his grandchildren, Sean Roller and his wife,  
24 Theresa, Beth Roller and her husband, Josh Smothers, Josh Roller  
25 and his fiancée, Maddie Jones, and Megan, Timothy, Blake, and Jenna  
26 Roller; to his great-grandchildren, Marlene and Janosch; and to his  
27 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Dale  
4 Alvin Roller.