

By: Leman

H.R. No. 901

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly  
2 cause for celebration, and Finus Odell Tyler of Sealy reached that  
3 impressive milestone in his life on April 11, 2021; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in 1921 in Nacogdoches County to Benton and  
5 Pearl Tyler, Finus Tyler grew up with four younger brothers and  
6 sisters; answering his nation's call to duty during World War II, he  
7 served from 1941 to 1945 with the 1317th Engineer General Service  
8 Regiment, and following his honorable discharge, he earned a  
9 bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University; he later  
10 returned to Prairie View to earn a master's degree; and

11           WHEREAS, Settling in Bellville, Mr. Tyler became the first  
12 Black county extension agent in Austin County, and he helped the  
13 students of the 4H program win the Texas State Swine Show; after  
14 moving to Sealy, he worked as a coach, agriculture teacher, and bus  
15 driver for the Austin County Colored School before becoming one of  
16 the first Black faculty members at Sealy High School, where he  
17 taught agriculture for 34 years; he served as sponsor of the NFHA  
18 Livestock Show and won the Texas Leadership Contest, and he  
19 received the Texas Teacher Training Award and the Outstanding  
20 Teaching Award from the Prairie View Alumni Association; and

21           WHEREAS, In addition to his professional contributions,  
22 Mr. Tyler has been a leader in his community, serving for 25 years  
23 on the Sealy Planning Commission and for five years on the Sealy  
24 Library Board, where he helped establish the city's first public

1 library; he also served on the board of the youth mentoring  
2 organization Raising Academic Performance, and in 2013, he was one  
3 of the first Black grand marshals of the Austin County Fair Parade  
4 and Livestock Show; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Tyler continues to serve as a member of the  
6 Sealy Eastside Foundation, the Prairie View Alumni Association, and  
7 the board of Helping One Another Meals on Wheels, Inc., of Austin  
8 County; a longtime congregant of Bethel Baptist Church of Sealy, he  
9 was the Sunday school superintendent for 55 years, and he is  
10 currently chair of the deacon board; and

11 WHEREAS, While still in college, Mr. Tyler married Esther  
12 Johnson, and they had three children together, Theadra, Yvette, and  
13 David; following the death of his first wife, he was fortunate  
14 enough to find a new love, L. E. Sadler, and after she passed away,  
15 he was joined in matrimony to Jo Evelyn Owens; today, he is the  
16 proud patriarch of a family that also includes five grandchildren,  
17 eight great-grandchildren, and seven stepchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, Finus Tyler not only  
19 served his nation, but has also met the challenges and  
20 opportunities of a long life with grace and dignity, and on his  
21 special day, he is blessed with the deep respect and lasting  
22 affection of a host of loved ones; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby congratulate Finus Odell Tyler on his 100th  
25 birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
26 happiness; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Tyler as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
2 House of Representatives.