

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1322

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For three decades, Austin attorney Gary Bledsoe has
2 rendered exceptional service as president of the Texas NAACP; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Bledsoe earned his juris doctor degree from The
4 University of Texas School of Law, where he was president of the
5 Class of 1976; his practice areas have included public interest,
6 employment, and civil rights law, and in recognition of his legal
7 acumen, he received a coveted AV professional rating from
8 Martindale-Hubbell; he has also been awarded Lawyer of the Year
9 honors from the Travis County Bar Association and several other
10 organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, This well-respected legal professional has long
12 championed the work of the NAACP, and he has held the office of
13 president of the Texas NAACP since being elected in 1991; he has
14 additionally served on the NAACP's national board since 2003, and
15 he currently chairs the organization's National Criminal Justice
16 Committee; and

17 WHEREAS, Through his affiliation with the NAACP, Mr. Bledsoe
18 has been a staunch defender of civil rights; he handled cases
19 involving allegations of discrimination against the Texas
20 Department of Public Safety, and he further lent his expertise to
21 the Austin Cedar Avenue case that led to widespread changes in how
22 instances of police brutality are addressed; the landmark
23 settlement for that case was used to create a scholarship program
24 for college-bound minority youth, and Mr. Bledsoe also went on to

1 successfully negotiate with the H-E-B supermarket chain to
2 establish a scholarship program for African American students
3 attending historically Black universities; and

4 WHEREAS, In honor of his many achievements, Mr. Bledsoe has
5 received the Kelly Alexander State President of the Year Award, the
6 Juanita Jackson Mitchell Award for Legal Advocacy, and the Benjamin
7 Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award, and he was inducted into the
8 Houston Hall of Fame at Riverside General Hospital; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary tenure with the
10 NAACP, Gary Bledsoe has done much to advance the causes of equality
11 and justice in his community, state, and nation, and it is a
12 pleasure to join his peers in recognizing him for his lifelong
13 commitment to these ideals; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor Gary Bledsoe for his contributions as
16 president of the Texas NAACP and extend to him sincere best wishes
17 for continued success; and, be it further

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