

By: Toth

H.R. No. 2095

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The community of The Woodlands lost an inspiring  
2 spiritual leader with the death of the Reverend Donald R. Gebert on  
3 March 15, 2021, at the age of 91; and

4           WHEREAS, Don Gebert was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
5 on June 11, 1929; after graduating from the Wharton School of  
6 Business at the University of Pennsylvania, he was called to the  
7 ministry and entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary in  
8 Philadelphia; he married the former Barbara Hermanns in 1951, and  
9 the couple shared a loving union that spanned nearly 70 years; he  
10 was the proud father of five children, Sue, Judy, Rick, Bob, and  
11 Kathy, and later in life he was blessed with eight grandchildren and  
12 five great-grandchildren; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1957, Reverend Gebert moved with his family to  
14 the South American nation of Guyana, where he worked as a Lutheran  
15 missionary until 1963; returning to Pennsylvania, he became senior  
16 pastor at St. Matthews Lutheran Church; he was in the audience in  
17 Washington, D.C., during Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"  
18 speech, and he became active in the civil rights movement; with a  
19 group of Black pastors, he helped found King's Way Community Church  
20 in one of the poorest communities of Philadelphia, and he also  
21 helped establish several charities and churches in eastern  
22 Pennsylvania; and

23           WHEREAS, Reverend Gebert and his family moved to The  
24 Woodlands in 1975, and he became the founder and executive director

1 of Interfaith of The Woodlands, playing a vital role in the growth  
2 of the community during its early years; he also contributed to the  
3 creation of The Woodlands Resident Directory, The Woodlands Child  
4 Development Center, The Woodlands Villager, Montgomery County  
5 Youth Services, and The Woodlands Hospital; and

6 WHEREAS, After retiring from Interfaith, Reverend Gebert  
7 served as assistant to the Bishop of the ULCA Texas Lutheran Synod;  
8 he came back to The Woodlands as associate pastor of Lord of Life  
9 Lutheran Church, where he became pastor emeritus; he worked until  
10 he was 90, serving as the chaplain at The Village in The Woodlands;  
11 in 2018, The Woodlands Hometown Heroes honored him for his  
12 contributions to the community with the prestigious Mitchell Award;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Don Gebert lived a rich and purposeful life  
15 dedicated to the service of others, and he leaves behind a legacy  
16 that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Reverend Donald  
20 R. Gebert and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and  
21 friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Donald R.  
25 Gebert.