

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 211

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than eight decades, The Lighthouse of
2 Houston has served as a source of critical support for the blind and
3 visually impaired; and

4 WHEREAS, The first efforts to provide services for Houston's
5 blind and visually impaired community can be traced to 1925, when
6 the Dandelions, the women's auxiliary of the Lions Club, organized
7 a sewing group for people with blindness and established sales
8 outlets for their creations; the City of Houston built upon their
9 work in the 1930s, taking over a program for the blind established
10 by the Works Progress Administration; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1934, legally blind teacher Nellie Mae Wimberly
12 moved to Houston to establish a home education program for the
13 city's blind population; after struggling to secure financial
14 support from the local government, she turned to her neighbor,
15 James G. Donovan, who raised the necessary funds by soliciting the
16 support of local Lions Clubs and other friends; believing that
17 blind residents would benefit from a more stable program, the two
18 went on to charter the Harris County Association for the Blind
19 alongside E. M. Biggers on November 14, 1939; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, The Lighthouse of Houston helps to enable and
21 empower people who are blind or low vision to realize their full
22 potential; to this end, the organization serves more than 14,000 of
23 these individuals annually through its vocational skills training,
24 assistive technology resources, health services, and events;

1 The Lighthouse also works to create jobs for people who are blind or
2 low vision through its Premium Business Service sales development
3 program, and 60 percent of its employees are blind or low vision;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Ensuring the well-being and prosperity of blind and
6 visually impaired Texans is a mission of great importance, and
7 The Lighthouse of Houston is making an invaluable contribution to
8 the Lone Star State through its efforts to uplift this community;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor The Lighthouse of Houston for its
12 achievements and extend to all those affiliated with the
13 organization sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for The Lighthouse of Houston as an expression of high
17 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.