

By: Thompson

H.R. No. 303

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, State Representative Harold V. Dutton, Jr., of  
2 Houston is celebrating his 80th birthday on February 17, 2025,  
3 providing a fitting opportunity to honor this exemplary legislator  
4 for his four decades of service in the Texas House; and

5           WHEREAS, A native of the Fifth Ward neighborhood in Houston,  
6 Harold Dutton graduated from Phillis Wheatley High School, and he  
7 earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Texas Southern  
8 University and a juris doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall  
9 School of Law; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Dutton enjoyed a rewarding career at Conoco,  
11 where he held an executive management position in corporate  
12 planning and economic analysis; he also served as executive  
13 director of the Julia C. Hester House and as president of Four Star  
14 Broadcasting, and he later obtained a license to operate an  
15 independent UHF-TV station, TV-67, which began airing in the  
16 Houston area in 1986; a skilled attorney, he operates a  
17 Houston-based law firm, and he is a former adjunct professor at the  
18 TSU Law School; his professional affiliations include the Texas Bar  
19 Association, the Houston Bar Association, the Texas Trial Lawyers  
20 Association, and the American Association for Justice; and

21           WHEREAS, A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Dutton began his tenure in  
22 the Texas House of Representatives on January 8, 1985, and he is  
23 currently serving his 21st term at the statehouse; a dedicated  
24 champion for his constituents in House District 142, he has

1 supported a number of important causes, such as establishing the  
2 first statutory program to assist women and minority-owned  
3 businesses, enhancing public education, and creating incentives to  
4 improve the availability and affordability of property insurance in  
5 traditionally underserved areas; he has also sponsored bills to  
6 establish the state's annual sales tax holiday, compensate  
7 individuals who are wrongfully convicted, and revamp the juvenile  
8 justice system; and

9       WHEREAS, Over the years, Representative Dutton has held a  
10 number of leadership roles, including chair of the Juvenile Justice  
11 and Family Issues Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, the Texas  
12 Legislative Black Caucus, and the 25-member Harris County  
13 Legislative Delegation; during the 87th Legislative Session, he  
14 became the first African American chair of the Committee on Public  
15 Education; most recently, he has been assigned to the Judiciary and  
16 Civil Jurisprudence Committee and the Public Education Committee;  
17 and

18       WHEREAS, Representative Dutton has received the Lifetime  
19 Achievement Award from the Urban Enrichment Institute, and he was  
20 named Legislator of the Year by the Texas Municipal League as well  
21 as a Distinguished Alumnus by the TSU School of Business; he has  
22 been involved in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and he is a 32nd Degree  
23 Mason and a member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, where he  
24 serves as an usher; and

25       WHEREAS, Above all else, Representative Dutton treasures  
26 time spent with his loved ones; he is the proud father of seven  
27 children, Melonie, Harold, Melissa, Peter, Jon Harold, Nicholas,

1 and Jeremy, and he has had the pleasure of seeing his family grow to  
2 include eight grandchildren, Tatum, Therron, Aya, Allen, Artis,  
3 Peter, Peyden, and Pierce; and

4 WHEREAS, Harold Dutton has made a positive difference in the  
5 lives of countless Texans through his outstanding contributions as  
6 a legislator and civic leader, and it is truly a pleasure to join in  
7 marking this significant milestone; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby congratulate State Representative Harold V.  
10 Dutton, Jr., on the occasion of his 80th birthday and extend to him  
11 sincere appreciation for his four decades of service in the Texas  
12 House; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Representative Dutton as an expression of high regard  
15 by the Texas House of Representatives.