By: Cole H.R. No. 24

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed educator, researcher, and community leader drew to a close with the passing of Dr. Exalton Alfonso Delco Jr. of Austin on December 3, 2025, at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, Exalton Delco was born in Houston on September 4, 1929, to Exalton Delco Sr. and Pauline Delco; a proud graduate of the original Jack Yates High School, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Fisk University and his master's degree from the University of Michigan; while at Fisk, he met his future wife, the former Wilhelmina Fitzgerald, who would later become a state representative; the couple wed on August 23, 1952, and in the course of a fulfilling 73-year union, their cherished family grew to include 4 children, Deborah, Exalton, Loretta, and Cheryl, along with 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Delco began his career teaching biology classes at Texas Southern University, where his students included future U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan; he eventually rose to the position of chair of the biology department, and along the way, he answered his nation's call to duty as an operating room specialist for the 46th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in Germany from 1955 to 1956; after relocating to Austin, he began a distinguished 25-year tenure at Huston-Tillotson University, during which time his research earned him national acclaim in his field; he also became one of the first African Americans to enroll at The University of

Texas, where he completed his doctorate in ichthyology; and

WHEREAS, Transitioning into college administration, Dr. Delco served as the vice president of academic affairs at both Huston-Tillotson and Austin Community College; he also held several prominent roles at UT Austin, including as a member of the Commission of 125; a dedicated community activist, he was involved in many nonprofit organizations ranging from the American Cancer Society to the Austin Area Urban League, in addition to being a parishioner at Holy Cross Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Exalton Delco left an indelible mark on the world through his professional achievements and community service, and he will forever be remembered with great admiration and affection by those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Exalton Alfonso Delco Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Exalton Delco.