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By: Glenn O. Lewis H.C.R. No. 154

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Honorable Doyle Willis has served his state and his country with honor and distinction and has developed a well-deserved reputation as a distinguished citizen, an exceptional legislator, and a highly regarded advocate for victims of child abuse, the elderly, and, most notably, peace officers; and

WHEREAS, A native Texan, this esteemed public servant pursued his higher education at The University of Texas at Austin and continued his pursuit of academic excellence at Georgetown University Law School; during his four years of law school, he worked for Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and fellow Texan Sam Rayburn and learned the value of truly representing the concerns of one's constituents; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished veteran of World War II served in the South Pacific theater as an Army Air Corps intelligence officer, and his selfless patriotism earned him the Bronze Star and four Battle Stars; following his military tenure, he was honorably discharged as a major, and shortly thereafter he began an unparalleled term of legislative service to his fellow Texans; and

WHEREAS, His 42 years of service as a legislator began in 1946, when he was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives; he served three sessions as a state representative before beginning a highly productive 10-year term in the Texas Senate; he then was reelected to the house in 1968 and again in 1972 and proudly served there until his retirement a quarter-century

later; and

WHEREAS, Among the many accomplishments of his life in the Texas Legislature are his service as president pro tempore of the Texas Senate, dean of the Texas House of Representatives, and governor of Texas for a day on August 13, 1961; his legislative achievements are equally impressive and include authoring more than 100 bills, many of them promoting civil service protection for peace officers; the passage of a constitutional amendment that authorized the Veterans' Land Board to make low-interest loans available to qualified veterans for the purchase of homes; and the establishment of a trust fund for victims of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, His many contributions to the well-being of the Lone Star State are evidenced by his recognition as an outstanding legislator by a wide range of groups, including organizations of teachers, women, police, firefighters, labor advocates, senior citizens, veterans, and others too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, The 79th Annual Convention of the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States passed Resolution No. 1003 requesting that a bust of the Honorable Doyle Willis be placed in the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Such display would memorialize those veterans who have been long-serving members of the Texas Legislature; having served more than four decades in both chambers of the legislature and 54 months in World War II, Doyle Willis exemplifies the true meaning of citizenship and is best suited to represent those brave men and women who have endured with honor the sacrifices of combat and served with dignity as stewards of the voters' trust in the

legislature; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and many former legislators and associations have privately funded a bronzed bust of the Honorable Doyle Willis that would be most appropriate for display in the extension wing of the Capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas direct the State Preservation Board to accept the donation of a bronzed bust of the Honorable Doyle Willis and to permanently display the bust in a prominent location in the extension wing of the Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the State Preservation Board.