

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

In Memory
of
Opal Johnson Smith

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Opal Johnson Smith, who died December 27, 2020, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Born August 27, 1934, Opal Johnson was an esteemed member of the Dallas community and a native of Nigton, Texas; she graduated from high school at the young age of 15 and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Prairie View A&M University before her 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Opal was an active member of the Dallas Prairie View A&M University Alumni Chapter, and over the years, her fund-raising prowess contributed greatly to the growth and success of the university; she established the highly successful Annual Athletic Scholarship Gala, and her work as co-chair for the university's Capital Campaign led to more than \$34 million in funding; she was honored for her service and contributions to her alma mater and the Prairie View A&M University Foundation in 2006 with the dedication of the Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium, and in 2003, she was inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected educational leader, Opal earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and enjoyed a 35-year career in the Texas public education system; she amassed numerous awards for her outstanding service as a teacher and an administrator, and she retired as the director of alternative certification for the Dallas Independent School District; and

WHEREAS, Through all things, Opal enjoyed the love and support of her husband of 62 years, Joe Edward Smith, a fellow Prairie View alumnus who shared her enthusiastic commitment to supporting and promoting education; they were blessed with four children, who they guided by loving spiritual example, and their eight grandchildren were a source of great pride and joy for her; and

WHEREAS, Opal Smith was a woman of great wisdom, kindness, and generosity and was beloved by many, and her proud legacy of service will continue to have an impact on the lives of Texas citizens for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Opal Johnson Smith; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Opal Smith.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 22, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate