

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

In Memory  
of  
Curtistene Smith McCowan

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of DeSoto in mourning the loss of Mayor Curtistene Smith McCowan, who died October 28, 2020, at the age of 72; and

**WHEREAS**, Curtistene McCowan was an exemplary citizen and a dedicated civic leader, and her courage, fair-mindedness, and commitment to public service had a far-reaching impact on the fabric of life in DeSoto; and

**WHEREAS**, She and her beloved husband of 54 years, Leon R. McCowan, were blessed with two sons, Danny Sebastian McCowan and Leon Curtis McCowan; her grandchildren, Tiana, Kirsten, and Taylor, were a source of much pride and joy for her; and

**WHEREAS**, Curtistene enjoyed a fulfilling career of more than three decades with the Federal Trade Commission; her service included 18 years as a senior investigator, and she retired from federal service on January 1, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1990, she became the first African American elected to public office in DeSoto when she won a seat on the DeSoto Independent School District Board of Trustees; she served for six years and was the board's president for two years; she also served on numerous committees and panels for the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Education Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, She was a founder of Concerned DeSoto Citizens, a nonprofit community service organization, and she held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including the Texas Southern University Board of Regents, the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Methodist Charlton Medical Center, the African American Education Archives and History Program, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2012, she was elected to the DeSoto City Council, and she served as mayor pro tempore from 2014 until 2016, when she was elected mayor of DeSoto; in recognition of her many years of service to the community and her untiring advocacy for education, the Curtistene S. McCowan Middle School was named in her honor; and

**WHEREAS**, A devout Christian who practiced her faith in her daily life, she was a longtime member of Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, where she served as chair of the Trustee Board; and

**WHEREAS**, She was a woman of grace, compassion, and perseverance, and she gave unselfishly to others; her wise counsel, her generous spirit, and her dedication to serving her community will not be forgotten by those who were privileged to know her and to share in her life; and

**WHEREAS**, A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother and a beloved community leader, she leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by her family and her countless friends; 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 Curtistene Smith McCowan; 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 Curtistene McCowan.

West

---

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