

By: Cole, Rose, Turner of Tarrant, et al.

H.C.R. No. 5

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A towering figure in the Texas Legislature and the
2 United States Congress, Houston native Barbara Jordan blazed a
3 remarkable trail on the national stage for other women and people of
4 color; and

5 WHEREAS, Barbara Charline Jordan was born in 1936 and
6 graduated from Texas Southern University and Boston University
7 School of Law; in 1966, she became the first African American woman
8 elected to the Texas Senate, and she pushed through bills
9 establishing antidiscrimination clauses in business contracts, the
10 Texas Fair Employment Practices Commission, and the state's first
11 minimum wage law; recognizing her wisdom and skill, her peers chose
12 her as president pro tempore; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara Jordan continued her work to advance social
14 progress after winning election to the U.S. House of
15 Representatives in 1972, when she became the first African American
16 woman from the Deep South to be elected to Congress; as a member of
17 the Judiciary Committee, she galvanized the nation during the
18 Watergate hearings, signaling the historic weight of the
19 proceedings as she thundered, "My faith in the Constitution is
20 whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be
21 an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the
22 destruction of the Constitution"; and

23 WHEREAS, Following her third term in the house, Congresswoman
24 Jordan retired from politics to take up the Lyndon Johnson Chair in

1 National Policy at The University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of
2 Public Affairs; she inspired the next generation of leaders by
3 teaching courses on intergovernmental relations, political values,
4 and ethics, and she served as ethics advisor to then-governor Ann
5 Richards; appointed chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration
6 Reform, she again emerged as a key supporter of the framers' intent
7 in 1994 when she powerfully decried a proposal to end the
8 constitutional provision of birthright citizenship; and

9 WHEREAS, Barbara Jordan passed away in 1996, but the
10 magisterial voice she lifted as a champion of the vulnerable and
11 disenfranchised and as a defender of the constitution continues to
12 resonate, and naming a new building in the Capitol Complex in her
13 honor would provide a fitting tribute to her enormous legacy; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to name the building
17 being constructed on the east side of North Congress Avenue between
18 16th and 17th Streets the Barbara Jordan Building in recognition of
19 her contributions to our state and nation; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
21 copy of this resolution to the chair and to the executive director
22 of the Texas Facilities Commission.