

By: Davis

H.R. No. 43

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Bernice Jones Washington on November 11, 2023, at the age
3 of 73; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Sarah Blacksher Jones and James
5 Jones, the former Bernice Jones was born in Shreveport, Louisiana,
6 on November 16, 1949; she earned her bachelor's degree in
7 microbiology and medical technology from Southern University in
8 Baton Rouge, where she joined the Beta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa
9 Alpha Sorority; after completing her MBA at the University of
10 Missouri-Kansas City, she married her college sweetheart, Lymon
11 Washington Jr., in 1973; they became the proud parents of two
12 children, Andrea Renee and Michael Benjamin; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Washington was employed by Bayer Healthcare
14 for 38 years; known for her ability to connect with people both
15 professionally and personally, she excelled as a regional marketing
16 manager; later, she became owner and CEO of Urgent Care clinics and
17 president and CEO of BJW Consulting Group, a motivational speaker
18 company; she addressed audiences across the United States and
19 abroad, and she offered commentary on national TV and in such
20 publications as *Southern Living* and *Jet*; and

21 WHEREAS, Admired as a force of nature, Mrs. Washington was a
22 member of the boards of more than six dozen organizations, among
23 them the DFW Airport Board, the Regional Transportation Council of
24 North Texas, and the Texas Healthcare Trustees; she served as

1 president of the board of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of
2 Plano; in addition, she was a member of the Plano North Metroplex
3 Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, for a quarter century; she
4 volunteered and raised funds for Southern University, the NAACP,
5 the Leadership Texas Alumnae Association, and local and national
6 political campaigns; engaged in civil and human rights activism as
7 well, she fought anti-Semitism, homophobia, and discrimination
8 against women; she also held leadership roles at St. Luke Community
9 United Methodist Church, and she was instrumental in establishing
10 the Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center; and

11 WHEREAS, Bernice Jones Washington made a lasting, positive
12 difference through her wide-ranging contributions, and those she
13 left behind will forever treasure their memories of her vibrant
14 personality and tremendous kindness; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
17 Bernice Jones Washington and extend sincere condolences to the
18 members of her family: to her husband, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)
19 Lymon Washington Jr.; to her children, Andrea Renee Wallace and her
20 husband, James, and Michael Benjamin Washington; to her
21 grandchildren, Alexander James and Adriana Sloan Wallace; to her
22 siblings, Dorothy Jones Williams and her husband, Roy, Billy George
23 Jones, and McKinley Young; to her best friend, Wilma "Teen" Flucas;
24 and to her many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bernice

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1 Jones Washington.