

By: Thierry

H.R. No. 897

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of a legendary community leader and public  
2 servant drew to a close with the passing of Ada Jean Edwards on  
3 March 23, 2023, at the age of 80; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on January 7, 1943, Ada Edwards was raised by  
5 her grandparents in San Diego, California; soon after moving to  
6 Houston in 1979, she made a name for herself as the head of a  
7 coalition of anti-apartheid protesters who persuaded the city and  
8 the University of Houston to financially divest from South Africa;  
9 she served as a field coordinator for the Harris County Democratic  
10 Party in the 1990s, and she went on to cofound the AFL-CIO Community  
11 Union Fund and to establish the Houston HIV/AIDS Action Coalition  
12 and the Ida Delaney-Byron Gillum Justice Committee, which called  
13 for greater police accountability; she also served on the boards of  
14 organizations such as Mothers for Clean Air and the Joint City  
15 County Commission on Children and Youth, in addition to hosting  
16 news and public affairs talk shows on public radio; and

17           WHEREAS, Ms. Edwards made a successful bid for a seat on the  
18 city council in 2001, and she represented District D for three  
19 terms, from 2002 to 2008; over the course of her tenure, she chaired  
20 council committees that addressed affordable housing, flooding  
21 issues, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic; along the way, she demonstrated  
22 a keen ability to communicate with people from both sides of the  
23 aisle and to earn the trust of residents who had historically been  
24 underrepresented, which helped make her a champion for the Third

1 Ward and Sunnyside neighborhoods and a powerful advocate for  
2 progressive causes; following her tenure on the city council, she  
3 continued to be active in civic affairs and was appointed by Mayor  
4 Bill White to be the assistant director of Houston's Housing and  
5 Community Development Department; and

6 WHEREAS, Blessed with a loving family, Ms. Edwards was  
7 devoted to her 5 children and 11 grandchildren; her kind nature,  
8 intellect, and sense of humor made her a joy to be around, and she  
9 was a dear friend to many; and

10 WHEREAS, Ada Edwards devoted herself to the goal of making  
11 Houston a better place for all, and her memory will be a continuing  
12 source of inspiration in the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ada Jean Edwards and  
15 extend deepest condolences to her family and friends; and, be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ada  
20 Edwards.