

By: Davis

H.R. No. 1736

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Mari Spivey Willis was honored by the City of Odessa
2 during Black History Month 2023 in recognition of her outstanding
3 service to her community; and

4 WHEREAS, From 2018 to 2022, Mrs. Willis represented
5 District 5 on the Odessa City Council; she was involved in a number
6 of projects undertaken by the council to improve quality of life for
7 area residents; at the same time, her brother, Eddy Spivey, was
8 serving as justice of the peace for Precinct 4, and they enjoyed the
9 rare distinction of being sibling elected officials; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Willis has also given generously of her time
11 and talents in a number of other leadership roles; she has served on
12 the board of West Texas Gifts of Hope, among other organizations; in
13 addition, she has been a member of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce
14 Ambassadors, the Black Chamber of Commerce of The Permian Basin,
15 and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; a woman of strong
16 faith, she is an active member of St. James Missionary Baptist
17 Church, where she serves as a deaconess, a Sunday school teacher,
18 and a member of the Business and Professional Women's Ministry; and

19 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Odessa, Mari Willis is the
20 daughter of Haskell and Myrtle Lee Spivey; she graduated from Ector
21 High School, the University of Houston, and The University of Texas
22 Permian Basin; retired from the Ector County Independent School
23 District after 23 years of teaching, she is supported in all her
24 endeavors by her husband of 34 years, Kirk Willis; they have been

1 blessed with two daughters, Mariah Strong and Alisha Slider, and
2 through the years, their fine family has grown to include their
3 son-in-law, LaDarius Slider, and four treasured grandchildren,
4 Nyla, Kayli, Kendi, and Kaiser; and

5 WHEREAS, Mari Spivey Willis has made a lasting, positive
6 difference in her community, and her contributions have earned the
7 deep admiration and appreciation of her fellow citizens; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Mari Spivey Willis on her
11 recognition by the City of Odessa during Black History Month 2023
12 and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Mrs. Willis as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.