

By: Springer

S.R. No. 46

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Wichita Falls lost an esteemed  
2 community leader with the passing of Arthur Beatrice Williams on  
3 November 19, 2021, at the age of 88; and

4           WHEREAS, Arthur Bea Williams was born in Calvert on August 2,  
5 1933, to Margie Blackmon and Johnny Williams, and she grew up with  
6 her brother, Charles; in 1942, she and her family moved to Wichita  
7 Falls; she professed her faith at an early age and became involved  
8 with ministries at her church; following her graduation from  
9 Booker T. Washington High School in 1951, she went on to attend  
10 Bishop College, where she was presented as a debutante by the  
11 Federated Women's Club; and

12           WHEREAS, Breaking a number of color barriers, Ms. Williams  
13 was the first Black woman city councilor in Wichita Falls and the  
14 city's first Black justice of the peace; she was a longtime member  
15 of the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls, and she was a  
16 passionate advocate for youth, playing an instrumental role in  
17 organizing Ms. Bea's Tea Party for fifth-grade students and serving  
18 as a board member for Child Care Partners; she contributed to her  
19 community as a volunteer for over four decades; moreover, she was a  
20 valued congregant of Gilbert Memorial Christian Methodist  
21 Episcopal Church; and

22           WHEREAS, Ms. Williams was inducted into the North Texas  
23 Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2019 she was honored as a North Texas  
24 Legend by the Museum of North Texas History; she was also recognized

1 as the 2001 Wichitan of the Year by the *Times Record News*; and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Williams was the devoted mother of a daughter,  
3 Andrea Lynne; in her leisure time, she enjoyed quilting, and she was  
4 a certified master gardener; and

5 WHEREAS, A trailblazer and a dedicated public servant, Arthur  
6 Bea Williams will be deeply missed, but the integrity, wisdom, and  
7 generosity with which she lived her life will forever inspire all  
8 who had the good fortune to know her; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature  
10 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Arthur Beatrice Williams and  
11 extend heartfelt sympathy to her many relatives and friends; and,  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
15 day, it do so in memory of Arthur Bea Williams.