

By: Rose

H.R. No. 68

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Dallas lost an esteemed community
2 leader with the passing of Dr. Maxine Thornton-Reese on August 15,
3 2025, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Mack and Lucille Thornton, the
5 former Maxine Thornton was born in Dallas on December 7, 1938, and
6 she grew up with the companionship of two sisters, Thelma and
7 Bobbye; as one of the first African American students to attend
8 North Texas State College, her experiences during the Civil Rights
9 movement were documented in the university's oral history project;
10 she earned her bachelor's degree in 1961 and her master's degree in
11 1967 before attaining her doctor of education degree from Texas A&M
12 University-Commerce in 1982; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the course of a long and rewarding career with
14 the Dallas Independent School District, Dr. Thornton-Reese served
15 as a mathematics teacher, counselor, assistant principal,
16 principal, and dean of instruction; after retiring from education,
17 she embarked on a second career in civic service, and during her
18 eight years representing District 4 on the Dallas City Council, her
19 many accomplishments included helping to improve public amenities
20 and expand after-school programs; she also served on a number of
21 committees and boards, among them the Dallas Citizens Police Review
22 Board and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board; and

23 WHEREAS, Further engaged in her community,
24 Dr. Thornton-Reese was involved in numerous organizations, and she

1 served as an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for
2 nearly five decades; in 2018, she received the Sojourner Truth
3 Award from the South Central District of the National Association
4 of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Thornton-Reese was the proud mother of a
6 daughter, Lynnetta; over the years, her cherished family grew to
7 include four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, Maxine Thornton-Reese was a devoted mother and
9 grandmother and a significant asset to her community, and her
10 commitment to her loved ones and to the city of Dallas will be
11 remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
13 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
14 of Dr. Maxine Thornton-Reese and extend sincere condolences to the
15 members of her family: to her daughter, Lynnetta M. Williams; to her
16 grandchildren, Maxine, Robert, Jasmine, and Roderick Williams; to
17 her great-grandchildren, Masego and Mekonnen Carroll and Dakotah
18 and Nevaeh Williams; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Maxine
23 Thornton-Reese.