

By: Cook of Navarro

H.R. No. 166

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Vernett Hicks of Corsicana on July
2 19, 2003, at the age of 78, has deeply saddened the family and many
3 friends of this beloved man; and

4 WHEREAS, A native Texan, he was born on February 2, 1925, in
5 the community of Cheneyboro; he graduated from Jackson High School
6 in Corsicana, joined the United States Navy, and attained the rank
7 of second class petty officer before he was honorably discharged;
8 "Hicks," as he was affectionately called by many of his friends,
9 went on to earn a bachelor's degree in social studies from Wiley
10 College in Marshall and a master's degree in psychology from
11 Prairie View A&M University; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks began his exemplary career in education at
13 Dunbar High School in Mexia, where he served as head football coach
14 and won five district championships between 1948 and 1957; he next
15 worked for the Port Arthur Independent School District as head of
16 testing, a position he held for a brief time before returning to his
17 hometown area; and

18 WHEREAS, In Corsicana, Mr. Hicks taught at Jackson and
19 Lincoln elementary schools and at Jackson High School until the
20 advent of desegregation in the mid-1960s; he then became the first
21 African American to teach at Collins Junior High School and
22 Corsicana High School; Mr. Hicks subsequently served as principal
23 at two local elementary schools and as an administrator with the
24 Corsicana Independent School District; and

1 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the school district in
2 1988, he remained active in businesses as diverse as ranching,
3 rental real estate, and house moving; in addition, he became the
4 first African American to hold the office of constable in Navarro
5 County; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks married the former Vivian Bratcher on
7 November 30, 1955, and the couple enjoyed a warm and rewarding
8 relationship for nearly half a century; together, the two educators
9 served their community in a number of roles and were faithful
10 congregants of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, where they
11 were instrumental in the recent building of a new sanctuary; and

12 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, his profession, and his
13 community, Vernet Hicks enriched the lives of countless
14 individuals, and his caring spirit will long be remembered in years
15 to come; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
18 Vernet Hicks and extend deep sympathy to the members of his family:
19 to his wife, Vivian; to his son, Melvin Joe Hicks; to his
20 half-sister, Ada Brunson; to his aunts, Myrtle Padgett Davis and
21 Jettie B. Watson; to his cousins, Bobby and Curtis Sparks; to his
22 grandchildren; and to the other relatives and many friends of this
23 esteemed gentleman; and, be it further

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