

By: Wilson

H.R. No. 88

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than half a century, Willie Lee Gay has
2 dedicated her professional life to the research, study, and
3 teaching of Texas history, and her accomplishments as both a
4 historian and an educator are deserving of the very highest praise
5 and commendation; and

6 WHEREAS, A native of Cameron, the former Willie Lee
7 Washington developed a passion for Lone Star history at an early
8 age, and by 1959 she had completed both a B.A. in history and an M.A.
9 in English at Texas Southern University; with the support and
10 encouragement of her family, she embarked on a successful career in
11 public education, and during her tenure as a history teacher at
12 Carter G. Woodson Junior High School, which lasted until her
13 retirement in 1986, she proved herself to be an educator of uncommon
14 creativity, commitment, and compassion; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gay's teaching has influenced the lives of
16 countless citizens of Southeast Houston, including such elected
17 officials as State Representative Ron Wilson and State Senator
18 Rodney Ellis; in addition to her work as an instructor, she has
19 pursued a lifelong quest to enrich our understanding of the Lone
20 Star State's history, and in doing so she has located important
21 historical artifacts, uncovered records at local archives, written
22 definitive historical accounts, and contributed greatly to the
23 efforts of local and state historical commissions; and

24 WHEREAS, With innumerable honors, awards, and appointments

1 to her credit, Mrs. Gay currently serves as a guide for the Harris
2 County Heritage Society Museum and is a distinguished member of
3 both the Texas State Historical Association and the Harris County
4 Historical Commission; the first African American to serve on the
5 Texas Historical Commission, she has created a legacy that will
6 long be preserved in the archives of Texas Southern University's
7 Willie Lee Gay Collection and in the work of the researchers who
8 receive assistance from the Willie Lee Gay Permanent Endowment
9 Fund; most recently, the Houston Community College System has named
10 the Willie Lee Gay Hall in her honor, and we join with the residents
11 of Houston in paying tribute to this truly outstanding citizen of
12 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commend Willie Lee Gay for
15 her many remarkable contributions to the community of Houston and
16 the State of Texas and extend to her best wishes for continued
17 success and happiness in all her endeavors; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Mrs. Gay as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.