

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 48

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The people of Irving lost a committed advocate and
2 beloved friend with the passing of Jackie Mae Townsell on October
3 17, 2002; and

4 WHEREAS, A North Texas native, Mrs. Townsell was born in
5 Dallas on April 7, 1936; as a young girl she moved to Bear Creek, a
6 historic settlement founded by slaves in 1850, which became her
7 treasured lifelong home; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Townsell sought to make a difference throughout
9 her years, spearheading an effort in the 1960s to annex Bear Creek
10 into the City of Irving and working to further the civil rights
11 movement; her commitment to her community led Mrs. Townsell to run
12 for the Irving City Council in 1977, and she became the body's
13 longest-serving member; and

14 WHEREAS, During her illustrious 18-year tenure in city
15 government, Mrs. Townsell supported initiatives to help those in
16 need and Irving at large by calling for health care for low-income
17 mothers, promoting parks and libraries, and advocating community
18 block grants; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Townsell's dedication to the people of Bear
20 Creek did not end with her departure from the council; in 1999, she
21 helped to save two houses slated for destruction, which later
22 became the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center; Mrs.
23 Townsell and her husband, Jimmie, also operated the only restaurant
24 and grocery store in the area for 38 years, providing residents with

1 much-needed services; and

2 WHEREAS, This admirable woman was a beloved figure in her
3 city where, in addition to her many other responsibilities, she
4 lent her time and talents to the Bear Creek Heritage Society, the
5 Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and the Irving
6 Salvation Army; and

7 WHEREAS, The love Jackie Townsell held for her community and
8 her dedication to its well-being will long be remembered, and
9 although her warmth and wisdom are gone from us now, her memory will
10 surely live on in the hearts and minds of the innumerable people
11 whose lives she touched; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the life of Jackie
14 Mae Townsell and extend sincere sympathy to her family: to her
15 husband, Jimmie Townsell; to her son, Aaron Townsell; to her foster
16 son, Erskin Hawkins; to her sisters, Imogene Rogers and Helen
17 Mosely; and to her many other relatives and friends; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day it do so in memory of Jackie Mae
22 Townsell.