

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 5

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Fort Worth lost a beloved friend,
2 neighbor, and community leader with the passing of Viola Pitts on
3 April 15, 2004, at the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of the Lone Star State, she was born
5 September 8, 1914, in East Texas, but later found her true home in
6 the west Fort Worth neighborhood of Como; during her exceptional
7 life, Mrs. Pitts channeled her passion and energy into fortifying
8 the area by improving vital services; moreover, she worked
9 fervently to encourage her neighbors to vote, to steer children
10 away from gangs, and to provide medical care for the poor; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitts was a valued member of the Child Abuse
12 Welfare Board, the Senior Political Action Board, and the Tarrant
13 County 2000 Task Force and also served as a representative of the
14 Senior Alliance for Como Senior Citizens, chair for the Como
15 Neighborhood Advisory Council, and as precinct chair of Lake Como;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, She treasured her strong Christian faith as a
18 longtime congregant of Johnson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal
19 Church and lent her time to work as president of a local lay
20 organization, as a member of the Missionary Society, and with the
21 State of Texas African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitts was recognized for her outstanding
23 efforts in 2000, when the community came together to urge Tarrant
24 County officials to rededicate a local medical facility in her

1 honor; today, the JPS Health Center - Viola M. Pitts/Como stands as
2 a tribute to the tenacity and fortitude of a woman who championed
3 the rights of the disenfranchised; and

4 WHEREAS, This "unofficial mayor of Como" fearlessly walked
5 the halls of power and became the political conscience of an area
6 once overlooked, providing a voice for those who were dispossessed
7 and long unheard; and

8 WHEREAS, Her fiery spirit was fueled by love, charity, and an
9 unerring sense of fairness; her bold advocacy was motivated by
10 moral obligation, rather than personal gain; though Viola Pitts
11 will be deeply missed, her memory will live on in the hearts and
12 minds of the countless people whose lives she touched; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
15 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the life of Viola
16 Pitts and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family: to
17 her cousins, Dr. Beverly Waddleton-Johnson, her husband, Dr. John
18 F. Johnson, and their sons, Travers Jon Johnson and Alston Joseph
19 Johnson; the Reverend Dr. Donald Waddleton and his wife, Irma
20 Waddleton; Bobby Ray, his wife, Wanda Ray, and their children, the
21 Reverend Keith Ray, Deidra, and Debra; to her niece, John Julia
22 Hurd; to loved ones, Beverly Williams, Dr. J. Cy Rowell, Ed Adcock,
23 and the Honorable Mayor Mike Moncrief and his wife; and to the
24 innumerable friends and admirers of this beloved woman; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House

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1 and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Viola Pitts.