

By: Burnam

H.R. No. 5

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Fort Worth lost a beloved community
2 leader and people's advocate with the passing of Viola Pitts on
3 April 15, 2004, at the age of 89, and it is most appropriate to honor
4 her memory at this time; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Winnsboro on September 8, 1914, Mrs. Pitts
6 graduated from high school in Pittsburg; although she was unable to
7 attend college, this irrepressible Texan did possess advanced
8 degrees in C.S. and M.W., or "common sense" and "motherly wit," as
9 she often humorously described her humble educational pedigree; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitts came to Fort Worth in 1941 and lived there
11 for more than 60 years; she became politically active in the early
12 1960s and was an ardent supporter of the political process; she
13 served as precinct chair of the Lake Como neighborhood for many
14 years and was known as the "unofficial Mayor of Como" in recognition
15 of her longstanding commitment to the residents of that
16 historically black neighborhood; and

17 WHEREAS, During her long and productive life, Mrs. Pitts
18 raised awareness about issues affecting African Americans and
19 encouraged people to use the power of voting to effect positive
20 change; her efforts helped to secure funding for the local
21 community center, kept open the doors of Como Elementary School,
22 and ensured that many of the basic needs of Como's residents were
23 met; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitts was a member of the Tarrant County

1 Hospital Board of Managers, served on the State Board of Hospitals,
2 officiated as vice president of the Neighborhood Action Committee,
3 and was a member of Fort Worth's Charitable Solicitations
4 Commission; in 2000, the city's JPS Health Center was named in her
5 honor, a fitting tribute for a woman who devoted so much time and
6 energy to supporting health care initiatives; and

7 WHEREAS, A tireless advocate and respected civic leader,
8 Viola Pitts possessed an indomitable spirit and a heart as big as
9 Texas, and although she will be missed by all who knew and loved
10 her, her legacy of success and achievement will be remembered for
11 years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
14 Viola Pitts and extend sincere sympathy to the citizens of Fort
15 Worth, particularly to her many friends and neighbors in the Lake
16 Como neighborhood.