

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 219

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Phillis Wheatley High School Senior Class of
2 1954 gathered in Houston in June 2004 to celebrate its 50th reunion;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Located in Houston's Fifth Ward, this outstanding
5 school opened in 1927 and was named for poet Phillis Wheatley, the
6 first African American and the second American woman to publish a
7 volume of poetry in our nation; among those members of the Class of
8 1954 who were selected for inclusion in the Phillis Wheatley
9 Metropolitan Alumni and Ex-Students Association Hall of Fame were
10 the late Marion Ford, who, in 1958, became the first African
11 American to graduate from The University of Texas and later one of
12 Houston's finest dentists, Faye Bryant, a renowned educator, a
13 former superintendent of the Houston Independent School District,
14 and an Outstanding Alumni of Howard University, and Warren Olu
15 Chapman, who established Boys Rites of Passage, an organization
16 that provides guidance and direction for African American boys
17 between the ages of 11 and 16; and

18 WHEREAS, Although the former classmates maintained a lively
19 interest in one another since leaving Wheatley, they were unable to
20 take a break from their busy and productive lives to come together
21 for an official reunion until the 30th anniversary of their
22 graduation in 1984; members of the Wheatley High School Class of
23 1954 have since enjoyed well-attended reunions in 1989, 1994, and
24 1999, and their golden jubilee celebration in 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, In their commitment to hold dear the bonds of
2 friendship and to hold fast the principles instilled in their
3 hearts and minds by exceptionally capable teachers, the Wheatley
4 Class of '54 exhibits the same camaraderie, willingness to serve,
5 faith, tenacity, and indomitable spirit that were their inheritance
6 50 years ago; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
8 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby congratulate the Phillis
9 Wheatley High School Senior Class of 1954 on the occasion of its
10 50th high school reunion and that its members be extended sincere
11 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the class as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.