

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 626

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Phillis Wheatley High School Class of
2 1963 are gathering in Houston June 20-22, 2003, to celebrate their
3 40th reunion, and the occasion promises to be a memorable event for
4 all concerned; and

5 WHEREAS, Named in honor of the 18th-century African-born
6 American poet, Phillis Wheatley High School was established on
7 January 31, 1927, in the former McGowan Elementary School building
8 at 3415 Lyons Avenue; situated at 4900 Market Street since 1950, the
9 institution has provided for the educational needs of Bayou City
10 students for more than three-quarters of a century; and

11 WHEREAS, Through the years following their high school
12 graduation, the men and women of the Class of '63 have assumed
13 leadership roles in Houston and throughout the nation; their
14 accomplishments have added still further to the luster of a school
15 whose alumni have excelled in such diverse professions as
16 education, sports, law, music, architecture, medicine,
17 engineering, industry, business, military science, and national,
18 state, and local politics; and

19 WHEREAS, One of the most notable members of the Class of '63
20 is Brown University president Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, the first woman
21 to serve the institution in that capacity; formerly president of
22 Smith College, she made history as the first African American
23 president of a Seven Sisters college; and

24 WHEREAS, Over the course of their time together, the former

1 Wheatley classmates will rekindle old friendships and bring each
2 other up-to-date, and there will no doubt be much laughter and some
3 tears as they reminisce and regale one another with stories of their
4 trials and triumphs of the last four decades; and

5 WHEREAS, In returning to pay tribute to their alma mater and
6 their days as Phillis Wheatley Wildcats, they acknowledge the
7 school's deep and abiding influence in shaping their lives, and it
8 is indeed fitting at this time to recognize both the breadth of
9 their accomplishments and their moving loyalty to their beloved
10 school; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 40th anniversary of Phillis
13 Wheatley High School's Class of 1963 and extend to its members
14 warmest wishes for continued success and happiness.