

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 908

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Mollie Taylor Stevenson of Houston passed away on  
2 April 9, 2003, at the age of 91, leaving behind a host of friends and  
3 relatives who mourn her passing; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in November 1911 in Pierce Junction, Ms.  
5 Stevenson graduated from Old Jack Yates High School in 1928; and

6           WHEREAS, During the 1920s, she studied classical piano under  
7 the direction of New Orleans native Madame Rochan; she went on to  
8 study concert piano and organ at Fisk University in Nashville,  
9 Tennessee, and completed a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1934;  
10 her remarkable talent earned Ms. Stevenson the opportunity to  
11 accompany the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers, and she later  
12 performed regularly at Houston's historic Rice Hotel as a guest  
13 pianist; and

14           WHEREAS, Ms. Stevenson met her husband, seven-time  
15 All-American football player Benjamin Franklin "Big Ben"  
16 Stevenson, while still at Fisk University; they shared a close and  
17 rewarding marriage for more than 30 years until his passing, and  
18 their lives were blessed with five children as well as a sixth child  
19 whom they also loved as a daughter; and

20           WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Houston and a member of  
21 Trinity East United Methodist Church, Ms. Stevenson was a valued  
22 citizen in her community who participated in numerous local  
23 organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Jack and  
24 Jill of America, Inc., and the Bluebonnet Garden Club; she was

1 inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and received  
2 numerous other awards and honors throughout her lifetime; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Stevenson was a devoted wife and caring mother,  
4 an esteemed musician and much-loved performer, and a trusted and  
5 cherished friend to many, and her spirit will live on in the hearts  
6 of all those who were fortunate to have known her; now, therefore,  
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mollie Taylor  
10 Stevenson and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family:  
11 to her six children, Barbara T. S. Marshall, Sandra Rigsby, Ben Taye  
12 Choice, Benjamin F. Stevenson, Jr., Mollie Stevenson Scott, and  
13 Major W. Stevenson, Sr.; to her 12 grandchildren, 13  
14 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; and to her  
15 other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mollie  
19 Taylor Stevenson.