

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 334

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Sonceria "Sonny" Messiah-Jiles for her exceptional contributions to the Houston community; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny Messiah-Jiles was honored by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County at its recent Black Heritage Luncheon on February 21, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1981, at the age of 27, Sonny Messiah-Jiles purchased the *Houston Defender* newspaper; since that time, the newspaper has tripled its circulation to approximately 32,000; and

**WHEREAS**, For her outstanding work as the newspaper's owner and publisher, Sonny has been recognized by the American Civil Liberties Union; she has also received the National Newspaper Publishers Association's A. Phillip Randolph Messenger Award for excellence among African American publishers in news, commentary, and editorial writing; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny Messiah-Jiles provides leadership, support, and encouragement to the members of her community, and her popular newspaper's following will undoubtedly continue to grow; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Sonceria Messiah-Jiles for her outstanding work as the owner of the *Houston Defender* and her commitment to the betterment of the Houston community; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Gallegos

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 10, 2003.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate