

By: Veasey

H.R. No. 64

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens across Texas lost an esteemed public
2 servant and committed civil rights leader with the passing of the
3 Honorable Garfield Thompson of Fort Worth, who died on December 7,
4 2005, at the age of 89; and

5 WHEREAS, This notable Texan was a prominent political figure
6 in the African American community of Fort Worth for decades, and he
7 was much admired for his dedication to the needs of the citizens of
8 Tarrant County and his advocacy for the rights of workers,
9 minorities, and veterans; and

10 WHEREAS, Born on June 29, 1916, in Grandview, Mr. Thompson
11 graduated from I. M. Terrell High School and served his country
12 during World War II; his first jobs after the war, as a railroad
13 dining car waiter and later as a custodian for the Tarrant County
14 Courthouse, undoubtedly laid the foundation for his compassionate
15 activism in behalf of the working class; he soon became a strong
16 advocate for workers' rights and was elected president of the
17 county employees' union; and

18 WHEREAS, This lifelong Democrat won a seat in the Texas House
19 of Representatives in 1984 and served House District 95 for the
20 following 10 years; during his tenure, he ably represented the
21 residents of southeast Fort Worth, including the Stop Six
22 neighborhood, where he resided until his death, and earned the
23 respect and admiration of both his Democratic and Republican
24 colleagues in the house; and

1 WHEREAS, For nearly 60 years, he benefited from the love and
2 support of his wife, the late Dorothy Ruth Thompson, who was a
3 vigorous champion of voting rights for African Americans and his
4 companion in the fight for a better future for all Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, Garfield Thompson's extraordinary achievements
6 exemplified his passionate commitment to a just and equitable
7 society, and although his death has brought great sorrow to those
8 who loved him, his life will remain an inspiring example of the good
9 that one person can accomplish; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
12 the Honorable Garfield Thompson and extend sincere sympathy to the
13 members of his family: to his son, Justice of the Peace E. Sidney
14 Thompson; to his daughters, Fannie Thompson Gibson, Willie Ruth
15 Jones, Ruby Thompson Grant, and Ida Thompson Bridgewater; to his
16 five grandchildren and his great-granddaughter; and to his other
17 relatives and many friends and admirers throughout the state; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
21 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
22 Honorable Garfield Thompson.