

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 312

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Izola Ethel Fedford Collins has been selected as the
2 recipient of the 2006 Steel Oleander Award, presented each year by
3 the Galveston Historical Foundation to an outstanding local woman
4 whose community service reflects the ideals and independent spirit
5 of early citizen Bettie Brown; and

6 WHEREAS, A fourth-generation Galvestonian, Mrs. Collins
7 began teaching piano lessons when she was 16; she went on to earn a
8 bachelor's degree in music at Prairie View University, where she
9 played trumpet in the Prairie View College Coeds Orchestra; after
10 earning a master's degree in music at Northwestern University, she
11 returned to the Lone Star State and became a successful and
12 well-respected high school band director and an award-winning choir
13 teacher; she retired from the Galveston Independent School District
14 in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has devoted much of her life to
16 supporting her beloved community; shortly after retiring, she was
17 elected to the GISD Board of Trustees, which she served for nine
18 years, and was instrumental in organizing the GISD Education
19 Foundation, a coalition from the public and private sectors that
20 funds important public school programs; in addition, she helped
21 organize the local chapter of the Galveston County Alliance of
22 Black School Educators and has shared her time and talents with such
23 notable organizations as the 1894 Grand Opera House, St. Mary's
24 Hospital, the Strand Street Theatre, the Galveston Historical

1 Foundation, Galveston Partnership, and St. Vincent's House; she is
2 currently on the board of the Old Central Cultural Center and the
3 Marcus Netherly Scholarship Fund; and

4 WHEREAS, A woman of diverse interests, Mrs. Collins is the
5 author of two books, *Divine Light Never Goes Away*, a collection of
6 poetry, and *Island of Color: Where Juneteenth Started*, a history of
7 African Americans in Galveston; she continues to express her
8 exceptional musical talent as a member of the Galveston Heritage
9 Chorale, which she organized, and she composed the music for the
10 2005 and 2006 FeatherFest, Galveston's annual birding and nature
11 event; and

12 WHEREAS, A treasured member of Reedy Chapel, she has
13 contributed greatly to its legacy of music over the years,
14 variously serving as pianist, organist, and choir director; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Collins is the widow of Roy Lester Collins,
16 Jr., with whom she shared 32 years of marriage and raised three
17 children, and she now enjoys the affection of eight grandchildren;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, For many decades, Izola Collins has had a profound
20 impact on the Galveston community, and this distinguished award
21 offers testimony to the regard and admiration in which she is held
22 in the community; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
24 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate Izola Ethel
25 Fedford Collins on receiving the 2006 Steel Oleander Award and
26 commend her for her many contributions to the arts and education in
27 Galveston; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mrs. Collins as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.