

By: Hodge

H.R. No. 51

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, One of the largest housing discrimination lawsuits
2 in U.S. history, a class action suit filed in 1980 by Dallas
3 attorney Mike Daniel on behalf of three African American clients,
4 has been settled by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
5 Development; and

6 WHEREAS, In his argument, Mr. Daniel demonstrated
7 convincingly that HUD had maintained a system of segregated public
8 housing throughout East Texas; U.S. District Judge William Wayne
9 Justice found for the plaintiffs in 1985, ordering HUD to integrate
10 public housing in a 36-county area; and

11 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the clear validity of the
12 plaintiffs' contention--only one housing unit in the region was
13 integrated at the time the suit was filed--change did not come
14 easily; nearly 2-1/2 decades elapsed before another federal judge,
15 in January 2004, approved a settlement that would end federal
16 oversight of HUD's operations in East Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the terms of the agreement, which
18 affects some 10,000 families, HUD has consented to create 1,500
19 additional integrated units in the region; when officials concluded
20 this settlement, approximately 45 percent of black families and 67
21 percent of white families residing in public housing in East Texas
22 lived in integrated facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to achieving a substantial level of
24 integration, the lawsuit has spurred significant improvements in

1 historically black housing projects, including the introduction of
2 such amenities as air conditioning and paved streets; and

3 WHEREAS, A member of the National Housing Law Project Council
4 of Advisors, Mr. Daniel has long been at the forefront of legal
5 efforts to protect and expand the availability of affordable
6 housing; his spirited, unflagging efforts have helped to secure
7 decent shelter for countless citizens, and through his tenacious
8 advocacy in this East Texas case, he has contributed immeasurably
9 to building a stronger, more just society in the Lone Star State;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby honor Mike Daniel for his instrumental role in
13 achieving the desegregation of public housing in East Texas and
14 extend to him sincere appreciation for his commitment to ensuring
15 housing justice for all Texans; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Mr. Daniel as an expression of high regard by the Texas
18 House of Representatives.