

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 58

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of former U.S. Congresswoman
2 Shirley Chisholm on January 1, 2005, at the age of 80, America has
3 lost a singular political pioneer, a dedicated champion of the
4 dispossessed, and a fearless practitioner of the art of speaking
5 truth to power; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in 1924 into a world that admitted neither
7 African Americans nor women into the corridors of power, she went on
8 to become the first black woman to be elected to Congress and was a
9 candidate for president in 1972; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, she saw herself as a servant
11 of the citizens who had elected her, and her steadfast refusal to
12 truckle with special interests was reflected in her slogan,
13 "Unbought and Unbossed"; and

14 WHEREAS, Though well known for her powerful, disciplined
15 intelligence and astute political sense, Ms. Chisholm was also
16 possessed of a deeply felt compassion for the suffering of her
17 fellow humans, as when she risked the wrath of her political allies
18 by visiting the bedside of the segregationist George Wallace after
19 he was shot and crippled by an attempted assassin; and

20 WHEREAS, In discussing her legacy, Ms. Chisholm once remarked
21 that she wanted to be remembered as having "guts," and her unbroken
22 record of eloquent advocacy on behalf of the poor, the helpless, and
23 the disenfranchised has ensured that her name will forever be
24 synonymous with gritty courage and integrity; and

1 WHEREAS, Shirley Chisholm's dedicated service to her
2 constituents was but one aspect of her profound effect on the times
3 in which she lived, and her example will continue to inspire her
4 fellow Americans as long as honesty and bravery are valued in public
5 life; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of former U.S.
8 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives
10 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Shirley Chisholm.