

By: Jones of Dallas

H.R. No. 893

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Dallas journalist Julia Scott Reed died on
2 October 19, 2004, at the age of 87, and the conclusion of her
3 extraordinary life provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on her
4 innumerable contributions to her field and to the African American
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, The first black journalist hired full-time by a
7 major Dallas newspaper and one of the first African Americans to
8 work in the newsroom at a major newspaper in the South, Ms. Reed
9 wrote a *Dallas Morning News* column, The Open Line, that was a
10 much-needed voice for the black community in Dallas in the 1960s and
11 1970s; and

12 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas in 1917, she lived the first seven
13 years of her life in the home of the white family who employed her
14 mother as a maid; after moving to a black neighborhood, Ms. Reed
15 reportedly walked 10 miles a day to attend Booker T. Washington High
16 School and later attended Wylie Business College on a scholarship;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Her passion for the written word and her interest in
19 journalism led this ambitious young Texan to a job with a Kansas
20 City newspaper as a Texas correspondent; she further honed her
21 craft as a reporter, photographer, and later city editor for the
22 weekly *Dallas Express*, covering such important stories as the
23 assassination of President John F. Kennedy and witnessing firsthand
24 the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby; she also reported on

1 the pivotal U.S. Supreme Court ruling that ended segregation on
2 public transportation; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Reed began writing her regular *Dallas Morning*
4 *News* column in 1967, and her 11 years of articles stand as an
5 important record of black history in Dallas; her column was the
6 first time an African American had written about activities in the
7 black community, and she did much to educate her readers and to
8 foster greater understanding among area citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Among the numerous honors Ms. Reed received for her
10 work were two Trail Blazer awards and an Extra Mile award from the
11 Business and Professional Women Dallas and a Maura Award from the
12 Women's Center for advancing the roles of women; moreover, she was
13 the first African American to receive Theta Sigma Phi's Matrix
14 Award, given to women in communication; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Reed was also active in her community and in
16 politics, serving as an Oak Cliff precinct chair for 23 years and
17 helping lead state and national campaigns for improving civil and
18 women's rights; she also served on several city boards and
19 commissions, including Goals for Dallas, the Mayor's Commission on
20 the Status of Women, the Greater Dallas Community Council, the
21 Dallas Movie Classification Board, and the War on Poverty; and

22 WHEREAS, An influential role model and mentor, Julia Scott
23 Reed worked across racial and gender lines and paved the way for a
24 new generation of African American journalists; as someone who
25 truly made a difference in the world, this remarkable Texas lady
26 leaves behind a collection of writings that document the social and
27 political issues of a critical time in our history as well as a

1 personal legacy of strength, independence, and determination that
2 will continue to inspire others for many years to come; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Julia Scott Reed and
6 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
7 daughter, Gayle Eubanks Coleman; to her two grandchildren; and to
8 her other relatives and many friends and admirers across the state;
9 and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for the members of Ms. Reed's family and that when the
12 Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory
13 of Julia Scott Reed.