

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 1008

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson of Austin has dedicated
2 her life to creating educational opportunities for youth, advancing
3 racial equality, and promoting the arts; and

4 WHEREAS, A former national corresponding secretary and South
5 Central regional director of Jack and Jill of America,
6 Incorporated, Mrs. Anderson helped to found the Austin chapter of
7 this noteworthy organization in 1953; since then, the chapter has
8 furthered the aims of its parent organization by providing
9 constructive educational, cultural, civic, recreational, and
10 social activities and programs for African American youths in the
11 Austin community; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Anderson's exemplary work with Jack and Jill is
13 one of her many notable civic and professional accomplishments;
14 after graduating from Huston-Tillotson College, she completed the
15 coursework for a master's degree in library science, but because
16 she was African American, she was denied opportunities for the
17 program's required fieldwork as well as admission to the state
18 library; she continued her education, however, and went on to earn a
19 master's degree in educational psychology from The University of
20 Texas at Austin and completed graduate courses in business and
21 finance at Northwestern University; and

22 WHEREAS, Accomplished in the fields of education and
23 business, Mrs. Anderson taught public school, served as a
24 psychometrist for Austin ISD, and since 1951, has co-owned a real

1 estate and insurance firm with her husband; and

2 WHEREAS, While achieving a successful professional career,
3 Mrs. Anderson also has found time to contribute to innumerable
4 civic organizations and educational institutions, including the
5 Austin Community College board and the UT College of Education
6 Foundation Advisory Council; she served on the UT Centennial
7 Commission and is a life member of the university's Development
8 Board as well as the National Council of Negro Women; and

9 WHEREAS, An avid supporter of the arts, Mrs. Anderson was on
10 the board of trustees for the Laguna Gloria Art Museum for 15 years,
11 and served as the board's chair; she was a founding board member of
12 the Austin Lyric Opera and the initiator of that organization's
13 LEAP program, a highly successful endeavor that has provided
14 hundreds of minority youth exposure to area cultural resources;
15 among the numerous other groups that have benefited from her
16 leadership are the Texas Women's History Project Advisory
17 Committee, the Grand Jury Association of Travis County, the
18 Austin-Travis County Mental Health Association, St. David's Health
19 Care Foundation, and United Way Capital Area; and

20 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has been honored with numerous
21 awards over the years, including election to the Texas Black
22 Women's Hall of Fame in 1986 and the African American Women's Hall
23 of Fame in 1990; she has received the Scroll of Honor from the
24 National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's
25 Clubs, the Achievement in Education award from the National Council
26 of Negro Women, and the Leadership Award from the Austin Chamber of
27 Commerce Business Committee on the Arts, to name a few; recent

1 honors include the H. L. Gaines Human Relations Award from AISD and
2 the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Award from Austin Area Urban League, both
3 in 2001, the Leadership in Civil Rights Award from UT's LBJ School
4 of Public Affairs and Austin's Most Worthy Citizen award from the
5 Austin Board of Realtors, both in 2004, and the Henry B. Gonzales
6 Award for Human Rights from the Texas Civil Rights Project in 2005;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ada Anderson's important work has truly enhanced the
9 lives of countless Texans, and she may look with pride on the
10 profound difference that she has made in her community and beyond;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commend Ada Cecilia Collins Anderson for her
14 outstanding work with Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, and
15 honor her for her lifelong contributions to the city of Austin and
16 the State of Texas; and, be it further

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