

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1228

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Joseph L. Atkins is being inducted into the African
2 American Education Archives and History Program Educators Hall of
3 Fame in Dallas on April 23, 2005; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in 2001, the program was initiated by the
5 Dallas Regional, National Alliance of Black School Educators and
6 the African American Museum to create a repository of artifacts,
7 documents, and visual images that chronicle the African American
8 education experience in Dallas County and to pay tribute to
9 individuals such as Dr. Atkins who have made significant
10 contributions to African American education in Dallas; and

11 WHEREAS, His work as an advocate for African Americans began
12 when Dr. Atkins applied for admission to North Texas State
13 University, now the University of North Texas, and was denied
14 admission based on his race; with the support of his family and the
15 NAACP, he filed a suit that ultimately prompted a federal court to
16 order the desegregation of the school, making it one of the first in
17 the South to admit African Americans; due to the lengthy nature of
18 the litigation, Dr. Atkins, in the meantime, enrolled at The
19 University of Texas at El Paso, where he graduated with degrees in
20 English and journalism, before returning to North Texas State to
21 earn his master's; and

22 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan taught journalism at James
23 Madison and North Dallas High Schools from 1963 to 1974, when he
24 accepted the position of UniServe director for the Texas State

1 Teachers Association; for nearly 25 years, he worked as a TSTA field
2 representative, defending teachers and helping to develop future
3 leaders; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Dr. Atkins has benefited
5 numerous professional organizations with his involvement; he
6 continues to lend his time and talents to the Dallas Branch of the
7 NAACP, Town East Sunrise Civitan Club, Dallas Police Chief Advisory
8 Committee, Dallas ISD Advisory Committee, Dallas Black Chamber of
9 Commerce, and the Greater Dallas Association of Realtors; he is
10 also a lifelong member of the Good Street Baptist Church and serves
11 as the chairman of the board for the church's credit union; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to his induction into the hall of fame,
13 Dr. Atkins was lauded by the 2001 Texas Legislative Black Caucus
14 with its Outstanding Texan Award, and he recently received an
15 honorary doctorate of human letters from the University of North
16 Texas and was declared a "barrier breaking alumnus" during the
17 school's 50th anniversary celebration of desegregation in 2004; and

18 WHEREAS, An inspiring defender of human rights, Joseph Atkins
19 may take great pride in the profound difference he has made in
20 Dallas and beyond as his efforts have truly enhanced the lives of
21 countless Texans; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
23 Legislature hereby congratulate Joseph L. Atkins on his induction
24 into the African American Education Archives and History Program
25 Educators Hall of Fame and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
26 future; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Dr. Atkins as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.