

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 218

In Memory  
of  
Dr. Wolde-Michael Akalou

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Houston in mourning the loss of Dr. Wolde-Michael Akalou, who died recently at the age of 67; and

**WHEREAS**, Wolde-Michael was born in Adaa, Showa, Ethiopia, in September of 1937; the family moved to Addis Ababa in order for Wolde-Michael and his older brother to attend school; and

**WHEREAS**, Wolde-Michael excelled in his studies and won numerous awards and was one of only two students in his class who gained admission to the University College of Addis Ababa; and

**WHEREAS**, The government of Ethiopia presented Wolde-Michael with a scholarship to attend graduate school in the United States, and he studied geography at the University of California at Los Angeles; he returned to Ethiopia and joined the faculty at Haile Sellasie I University as a geography instructor; and

**WHEREAS**, After three years, Wolde-Michael returned to UCLA and completed a doctoral program; rejoining the faculty at Haile Sellasie I University in Ethiopia as an assistant professor, he rose to the position of acting vice president of academic affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1974, Dr. Akalou returned to the United States, where he taught at the University of Illinois in Chicago for a year and a half before joining the faculty of Texas Southern University; he served as chair of the Department of History and Geography at Texas Southern University from 1988 to 1994, and he recently became director of the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace; and

**WHEREAS**, A highly valued and respected educator, Dr. Wolde-Michael Akalou earned the respect of his friends, family, and colleagues and was admired for his wisdom, his patience, and his visionary leadership; he loved life and lived it with grace and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, While a student at University College, he met his future wife, Anketse, and the couple enjoyed a long and happy union; he was a devoted husband and father, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby honor and commemorate the life of

S.R. No. 218

Dr. Wolde-Michael Akalou and extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family: his wife, Anketse; and his sons, Daniel and Yared; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Wolde-Michael Akalou.

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 22, 2005, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate