

By: Hodge

H.C.R. No. 199

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The city of Dallas lost a dedicated civil rights
2 activist and respected civic leader with the death of Charlotte
3 Ragsdale on April 7, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Committed to social justice from a young age, Ms.
5 Ragsdale was an active member of the NAACP Youth Council and the
6 local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; she
7 went on to become involved in numerous groups, including the
8 District 6 Land Use Committee, the Inner-City Community Development
9 Corporation, the Dallas County Community Action Committee, and the
10 South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund, of which she was a charter board
11 member; moreover, she served as a Dallas Plan commissioner and as a
12 Dallas County Democratic precinct chair; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Ragsdale further distinguished herself as the
14 civil disobedience strategist for the 14-1 plan, which gained
15 better representation of African Americans and Hispanics on the
16 Dallas City Council, and as a campaign consultant for candidates
17 such as Dallas city councilman Leo Chaney, Jr., former Dallas mayor
18 Ron Kirk, and former Dallas City Council members Al Lipscomb, the
19 late Elsie Faye Heggins, and Diane Ragsdale, Ms. Ragsdale's sister;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, A woman of strong faith, she was a lifelong member of
22 the Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, where she
23 served as the pianist, and she was the proud owner of Elegantly
24 Africa, one of the first African boutiques in the Metroplex; and

1 WHEREAS, Charlotte Ragsdale touched the lives of countless
2 people with her passion, generosity, and exceptional leadership;
3 although her time on this earth was far too brief, she leaves a
4 legacy of service and accomplishment in behalf of her fellow Dallas
5 residents that will not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby pay tribute to the life of Charlotte Ragsdale and extend
8 sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her son, Benjamin
9 Younger V; to her sisters, Diane Ragsdale, Mary Lee Shepard, and
10 Yvonne Fletcher; to her many nieces and nephews; and to all those
11 who mourn her passing; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
14 of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory
15 of Charlotte Ragsdale.