

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 773

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lauren Anderson, a celebrated principal dancer with
2 Houston Ballet, retired from that company in late 2006 after a
3 distinguished performing career of more than two decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Anderson trained exclusively at the Ben
5 Stevenson Academy from the age of seven; she joined Houston Ballet
6 in 1983 and in 1990 became the first African American to be promoted
7 to principal with a major dance company; and

8 WHEREAS, A lead dancer in many classical ballets, Lauren
9 Anderson established a repertoire that included works by George
10 Balanchine, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Christopher Bruce, James
11 Kudelka, and Trey McIntyre; additionally, she created the title
12 role in Ben Stevenson's *Cleopatra*, and her performance as the
13 Egyptian queen received international acclaim; and

14 WHEREAS, Lauren Anderson has danced for audiences around the
15 globe, appearing onstage in New York, Chile, Moscow, and Chicago;
16 she was featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine* in April 1999, and
17 she has had her talents showcased in *People* and *Pointe* magazines and
18 on the television programs *A&E Breakfast With the Arts*, *CBS News*
19 *Sunday Morning*, and the game show *To Tell the Truth*; and

20 WHEREAS, Her accolades reflect the high esteem in which she
21 is held in the African American community; Ms. Anderson has been
22 honored by the Houston Area Urban League, Inc., the Delta Gamma
23 Foundation, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and she has
24 received a 2007 MLK Keeping the Dream Alive Award from the Martin

1 Luther King Foundation; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to achieving outstanding success in her
3 professional life, Lauren Anderson is a devoted wife and mother;
4 she is married to jazz saxophonist Kyle Turner and is the proud
5 parent of Lawrence Bell Fitzgerald Turner; and

6 WHEREAS, An integral member of Houston Ballet, Ms. Anderson
7 will continue to promote classical dance in the Houston area
8 through her new position as an outreach coordinator with the
9 company; and

10 WHEREAS, Lauren Anderson's stellar career is a testament to
11 her great talent, endless hard work, and profound commitment to her
12 art, and through her exhilarating performances she has brought joy
13 to countless audiences at home and abroad; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor Lauren Anderson on the occasion of her
16 retirement as a principal dancer with Houston Ballet and extend to
17 her sincere best wishes for good fortune and happiness in all her
18 future endeavors; and, be it further

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