

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 1688

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Galveston County have lost a
2 distinguished educator and civic leader with the passing of Mary L.
3 Crowder of Texas City on April 18, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Madisonville, Mrs. Crowder worked as a
5 teacher and later served for many years as the executive director of
6 Galveston County Head Start; following her retirement, she served
7 as office manager for her daughter, Dr. Janice Crowder, until her
8 health began to fail; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Crowder gave generously of her time and talents
10 to many area organizations; a valued congregant of Rising Star
11 Missionary Baptist Church, she served as church clerk, as president
12 of the Pastor's Aide, and as a member of the Missionary Society and
13 a number of church committees; she also worked with the Mainland
14 Ecumenical Ministerial Alliance; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan played an active role in the
16 Mainland Branch NAACP, the Galveston County Coalition of Black
17 Democrats, and the Democratic Club of Galveston County; and

18 WHEREAS, In recognition of her longtime community service and
19 her caring support of others, she was designated as a 2005 Martin
20 Luther King Celebration "Unsung Hero" and inducted into the
21 Ecumenical Prayer Partners Hall of Fame; and

22 WHEREAS, Mary Crowder and her husband, Billy, were married on
23 March 8, 1945, and enjoyed a close and rewarding union until her
24 passing; the couple became the proud parents of six children and

1 rejoiced as their family circle grew ever wider with the addition of
2 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mrs. Crowder sought tirelessly to
4 expand opportunities for area youth, serve her church and the
5 greater community of faith, and advance the cause of a more just and
6 inclusive society, and those who treasured her will forever hold
7 her close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mary L. Crowder and
10 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her devoted
11 husband of 62 years, Billy Crowder; to her children, Patsy F.
12 Ponder, Rona M. Rigsby, Marian D. Crowder, Michael W. Crowder,
13 Rufus G. Crowder, and Dr. Janice R. Crowder; to her grandchildren,
14 Lionel J. Russell IV, Billy Joe Rigsby, and Hendrick, Hamilton,
15 Bryan, Roderick, Shaunte, and Brittany Crowder; to her
16 great-grandchildren, Jessica, Jacqueline, Sylvania, Darrius, Jada,
17 Jordan, Jonae, Gavin, Andrew Jordan, and Angelica; to her sister,
18 Imogene E. Evins; to her sister-in-law, Thelma B. Morgan; to her
19 brother-in-law, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Retired) James E. Crowder,
20 Sr.; to her special niece and friend, Barbara J. Berkes and Jeanette
21 Gonzales; and to the many other relatives and friends of this
22 beloved woman; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary L.
26 Crowder.