

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 2100

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Countless lives were touched by the inspiring faith
2 and leadership of the Reverend Hamice R. James, Jr., of San Antonio,
3 who died on October 14, 2006, at the age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on April 19, 1929, in Fayette County, Reverend
5 James was the son of the Reverend H. R. James, Sr., and Bettie W.
6 James; he moved with his family to San Antonio in 1942 and graduated
7 from Phillis Wheatley High School in 1947; a member of the U.S. Army
8 for nine years, he served with the 25th Regiment of the Buffalo
9 Soldiers; and

10 WHEREAS, Returning to San Antonio after his military service,
11 Reverend James attended St. Philip's College and St. Mary's
12 University and went on to enroll at Harvard; he answered the call to
13 the ministry in 1970, studied at the Southwestern Baptist
14 Theological Seminary, and succeeded his father as pastor of
15 Emmanuel Baptist Church; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to his responsibilities with the church,
17 Reverend James had a successful secular career; he was the first
18 African American employment counselor at the Texas Employment
19 Commission and the first black cost analyst with the City of San
20 Antonio Water Board; he further distinguished himself as an
21 educator and administrator at St. Philip's College, where he held
22 the positions of instructor, vice president of academic affairs,
23 and interim president before retiring in 1995; and

24 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan's civic contributions included

1 his participation on the board of the Guadalupe District
2 Association, which he served as chair, and the board of the George
3 Gervin Youth Center; a lifetime member of the NAACP, he also served
4 as CEO of the HBJ Foundation, which cosponsored the Carolyn Care
5 Center with Emmanuel Baptist Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Hamice James lived a caring and purposeful life, and
7 although his death has brought great sorrow to his family and his
8 congregation, he leaves behind a legacy of good works that will long
9 resonate in the community; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend Hamice R.
12 James, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
13 family: to his wife, Rhonda S. James; to his children, Patricia
14 James, Marsha James, Vickie Fortson and her husband, Roosevelt,
15 Steven James and his wife, Pam, and John H. James, and to their
16 mother, Ethel James; to his sons, Hamice R. James III and his wife,
17 Monaque, and Hilton R. James; to his stepsons, Jarrod Slaughter and
18 Jerrell Slaughter and his wife, Bernice; to his brother, Nathaniel
19 James and his wife, Betty; to his sisters, Virlee Bibbs and her
20 husband, James, and Barbara O. James; to his 12 grandchildren and
21 his great-grandchild; and to the other relatives and many friends
22 of this esteemed gentleman; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
26 Reverend Hamice R. James, Jr.