

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 2114

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Rae Lewis Thornton is an outstanding speaker who was  
2 the guest speaker for the San Antonio Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma  
3 Theta's International Day of Service on March 17, 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, Diagnosed with HIV in 1986, Ms. Thornton has used  
5 her personal experiences as a means to educate others and challenge  
6 myths and stereotypes associated with AIDS; and

7           WHEREAS, Her efforts in fulfilling this important goal have  
8 resulted in appearances on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Nightline*  
9 with Ted Koppel and have included work as a contributing editor for  
10 a television series telling the stories of individuals living with  
11 HIV and AIDS, for which she received an Emmy Award; and

12           WHEREAS, Ms. Thornton has been featured on the cover of  
13 *Essence*, and stories about her have appeared in *Emerge*, the *Chicago*  
14 *Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Dayton*  
15 *Daily News*, and *Ebony*, which named her one of America's 57 Most  
16 Intriguing People in 2002; and

17           WHEREAS, Ms. Thornton is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois  
18 University and McCormick Theological Seminary, where she earned a  
19 Master of Divinity degree, and she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at  
20 the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; in addition to her work  
21 as a motivational speaker, she is a licensed Baptist minister and  
22 serves as an associate minister at Fellowship M. B. Church; she was  
23 previously employed in politics, having worked on campaigns for  
24 Carol Moseley Braun, Michael Dukakis, and Jesse Jackson; and

1           WHEREAS, Full of honesty and perseverance, Ms. Thornton is a  
2 blessing in the lives of all who know her, and her ability to use her  
3 own adversity as a catalyst for providing meaningful service to  
4 others is truly inspirational; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
6 Legislature hereby commend Rae Lewis Thornton for her many  
7 endeavors and extend to her best wishes for the future; and, be it  
8 further

9           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Ms. Thornton as an expression of high regard by the  
11 Texas House of Representatives.