

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

In Memory
of
Ben Thomas

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Plano in mourning the loss of Ben Thomas, who died January 17, 2007, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Ben Thomas was a lifelong resident of the Douglass Community, Plano's oldest black neighborhood; he was a graduate of Plano Colored High School and devoted much of his life to a struggle to empower his community and his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was known for his firm but soft-spoken approach to activism; he was in the forefront of the fight to desegregate the Plano schools in the 1960s, and he was instrumental in efforts to bring affordable housing to the Douglass Community; a gymnasium at the Douglass Community Center is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, A man of courage, strength, and integrity, he gave generously to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Ben Thomas was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and his family and friends will continue to live with cherished memories of his life and his many accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Ben Thomas: his wife, Frances; his son, Mitchell; his daughters, Dollie, Toni, and Areail; and his seven grandchildren and great-granddaughter; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ben Thomas.

Shapiro

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 29, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate