

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Ashira Tosihwe, honorary cochair of the 2007 African American Read-In, for her many contributions to the cultural and educational landscape of the African American community in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, Ashira cofounded Black Images Book Bazaar nearly 30 years ago with Emma Rodgers, and the store quickly became the favored place to find the works of black authors who were unknown to mainstream booksellers; the store also became noted for its personalized service and was a popular meeting place for loyal patrons and for local organizations and book clubs; and

WHEREAS, Black Images Book Bazaar hosted such national celebrity authors on book tours as Patti LaBelle, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and Susan Taylor; it also encouraged and promoted local writers, some of whom became national best-selling authors, such as Francis Ray and Victor McGlothin; and

WHEREAS, As co-owner of the Black Images Book Bazaar, Ashira has served as a longtime sponsor and supporter of the annual African American Read-In, and it is appropriate that she be an honorary cochair of this year's event; the 2007 African American Read-In, with its theme of "Light Up Your Life with Reading, Books, and Friends," will feature area actors and performers and celebrated children's author Christopher Paul Curtis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend Ashira Tosihwe for her valuable role in the cultural growth of the African American community in Dallas and proclaim her a Lifetime Literacy Champion for the State of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 5, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate