

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 810

In Memory
of
Charlotte Yvonne Ragsdale

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Dallas in mourning the loss of longtime civic and political leader Charlotte Yvonne Ragsdale, who died April 7, 2007, at the age of 57; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Ragsdale was born in Dallas on May 18, 1949, to Cottrell and Lula Simpson Ragsdale; she became a civil rights activist at a young age and was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth Council; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from James Madison High School and attended Grambling University; she was married to Benjamin Younger IV and the couple had one son, Benjamin Younger V; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the District 6 Land Use Committee, the South Dallas-Fair Park Innerscity Community Development Corporation, and the Dallas County Community Action Committee; and

WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of her mother, she served as a Dallas County Democratic precinct chair for over 15 years; she worked to increase minority representation on the Dallas City Council, and she served on the Dallas Planning Commission; she was a key advisor to her sister Diane Ragsdale and a campaign consultant to several political candidates; and

WHEREAS, She owned one of Dallas' first African boutiques, Elegantly Africa, and she founded The Ragsdale Company, a marketing and advertising firm; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte was a lifelong member of Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; she played the piano for the church and received the church's Thelma Wilson Award for exemplifying the true spirit of Christian discipline and commitment; she was cochair of the church's Katrina Relief efforts, and in spite of her declining health, she spent many hours marshaling resources for hurricane victims; and

WHEREAS, A devoted mother, grandmother, and sister, Charlotte Ragsdale will long be remembered for her service to her community and her dedication to justice, her faith, and her family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Charlotte Yvonne Ragsdale: her son and daughter-in-law, Benjamin Younger V and Erreshea; her sisters,

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Diane Ragsdale, Mary Lee Sheppard, and Yvonne Fletcher; and her grandchildren and many nieces and nephews; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her 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 Charlotte Yvonne Ragsdale.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 23, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate