

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 200

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A generous and productive life drew to a close with
2 the passing of Gratie Mae Potts of Clarksville on March 19, 2009, at
3 the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Berry and Effie Thompson, Gratie
5 Potts was born in Clarksville on August 21, 1920; she graduated from
6 Cheatham High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree from
7 Prairie View A&M University; after graduation, she married her
8 college sweetheart, Frank Robinson, and the couple later became the
9 parents of a treasured daughter, Janet; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Potts began her teaching career in Deport and
11 then taught second grade at Central Elementary School and English
12 at Central High School in New Boston, where she also coached the
13 girls' basketball team to two district championships; in 1959, this
14 esteemed educator returned to her alma mater and taught at Cheatham
15 High until the end of segregation enabled her transfer to
16 Clarksville High School; Mrs. Potts instilled in her students a
17 love of learning and encouraged them to reach their full potential,
18 earning their lasting respect and admiration; and

19 WHEREAS, She married Willie D. Potts in 1957, and she was a
20 devoted wife and mother to a family that grew to include four more
21 daughters, Betty, Ester, Brenda, and Gloria, as well as three sons,
22 Franklin, Samuel, and Willie Potts, Jr.; Mrs. Potts eventually
23 welcomed 20 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 5
24 great-great-grandchildren into the family, and extended loving

1 maternal care to her cousins, Patricia, Chelsey, Octavia, and
2 Clayton Ricks, and most recently to Chelsey's daughter, De'Jah, and
3 Octavia's son, Braden, in the next generation; and

4 WHEREAS, Following her retirement in 1986, Mrs. Potts devoted
5 herself to her community, continuing to teach others through her
6 example of good works; she served as president of the Red River
7 County chapter of the American Cancer Society and as a dynamic
8 volunteer for the East Texas Medical Center Clarksville Auxiliary,
9 Relay for Life, Helping Hands, the Retired Senior Volunteer
10 Program, and the public library's thrift store; moreover, she was a
11 member of PRIDE, the Retired Teachers Association, and Heroines of
12 Jericho; a keen supporter of the democratic process, she attended
13 meetings for political candidates and encouraged her fellow
14 citizens to exercise their right to vote; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Potts joined Zion Traveler Baptist Church at an
16 early age and went on to become a deaconess; she served the church
17 in a variety of capacities, including program chair, mission
18 teacher, announcement clerk, and funeral committee chair; in the
19 late 1980s, she also became known as one of the "Golden Girls,"
20 attending numerous church functions with her friends, Mildred
21 Pearson, Lillie Williams, and Norma Williams, and acting as the
22 charming group's chauffeur; moreover, she helped maintain longtime
23 friendships as a member of the Cheatham High School Reunion
24 Advisory Committee and never missed a reunion; and

25 WHEREAS, Gratie Potts made a positive difference in countless
26 lives through her commitment to education, to her community, and to
27 her family, and she will long be remembered with the greatest

1 affection by all who shared in the blessing of her love and
2 friendship; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
4 hereby pay tribute to the life of Gratie Mae Potts and extend
5 sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her daughters,
6 Janet Porter, Ester Barber, Brenda Wilburn, and Gloria Barber; to
7 her son, Samuel W. Potts; to her 20 grandchildren, 23
8 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren; to her
9 cousins, Patricia, Chelsey and her daughter, De'Jah, Octavia and
10 her son, Braden, and Clayton "C.J." Ricks; and to her many other
11 relatives and friends; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
15 Gratie Mae Potts.