

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 395

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 89th birthday of an esteemed Texan is indeed
2 cause for celebration, and Geraldine Bright of San Antonio
3 commemorated this special occasion on October 27, 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in the East Texas town of Pittsburg in 1919,
5 Mrs. Bright attended Prairie View State Normal & Industrial
6 College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business
7 administration in 1942; graduating just months after the United
8 States had entered World War II, she volunteered for the Women's
9 Army Auxiliary Corps, and as one of the first 40 African American
10 women to take this step, she demonstrated great dedication to her
11 country as well as tremendous courage as she strove to break down
12 the walls built by racial prejudice; and

13 WHEREAS, Although she faced discrimination during her time in
14 the corps, Mrs. Bright overcame the challenges she encountered and
15 went on to excel and become a leader among her peers; she ranked at
16 the top of her class and was promoted to first lieutenant before
17 being stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where she trained other
18 young recruits; her efforts helped open the way for later
19 generations of African American women who have played important
20 roles as members of our nation's armed forces; and

21 WHEREAS, Following her military service, Mrs. Bright secured
22 employment with the law offices of W. J. Durham in Dallas at a time
23 when the NAACP was coordinating its efforts to open the Democratic
24 Party to African Americans; her work as a legal secretary brought

1 her in contact with a number of influential figures who
2 participated in that effort, including Thurgood Marshall and
3 William Henry Hastie; after moving to San Antonio in 1946, she took
4 a job with the San Antonio Housing Authority, using her expertise to
5 set up financial and bookkeeping systems for the organization; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bright is a charter member of the Women
7 Pavilion in Washington, D.C., and has shared her time and talents
8 with Delta Sorority; she is also a longtime congregant of St.
9 Philip's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, where she has worshipped
10 for more than a half-century; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to her many other accomplishments, Mrs.
12 Bright has devoted herself to caring for her family; married to
13 Gerald Bright, she became a single mother when Mr. Bright passed
14 away and raised four children on her own, often working two jobs to
15 make ends meet; and

16 WHEREAS, Beloved by her relatives and friends, Geraldine
17 Bright is an inspiration to all who know her and she may indeed
18 reflect on the past 89 years with considerable pride; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Geraldine Bright on her 89th
22 birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued
23 happiness; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for Mrs. Bright as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.