

By: Edwards

H.R. No. 881

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of
2 accomplished community leader and civil rights pioneer Quentin R.
3 Mease of Houston, who died on February 24, 2009, at the age of 100;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Quentin Ronald Mease was born on October 25, 1908,
6 in Buxton, Iowa, the son of a coal miner and a seamstress; he moved
7 to Des Moines with his family in 1920, graduating from West High
8 School in 1924 and from Des Moines University in 1928; and

9 WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of his father, who was a
10 labor leader, Mr. Mease took an active part in his community even as
11 a young man; he was executive director of the local YMCA at the age
12 of 19, as well as a member of the NAACP, the Negro Chamber of
13 Commerce, and the Interracial Commission; and

14 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Mease served his nation
15 with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific, where he rose to the
16 rank of captain; a decorated veteran, he went on to earn a master's
17 degree in social work administration from George Williams College
18 in Chicago; and

19 WHEREAS, Moving to Houston in 1948 to take a job as the
20 executive director of the Bagby Street YMCA, Mr. Mease was soon
21 recognized as one of the most dynamic young African American
22 leaders in the city, helping to establish the South Central YMCA in
23 the Third Ward; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Mease played a vital role in the peaceful

1 desegregation of Houston, permitting student civil rights
2 activists to use the YMCA as a base of operations; he was also
3 instrumental in the creation of the Houston Area Urban League, the
4 Eliza Johnson Home, and the Houston Council on Human Relations; and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed to the first governing board of the Harris
6 County Hospital District in 1965, he became chair in 1971 and served
7 for 19 years; during that time, the district opened 11 community
8 health clinics, built two hospitals, and improved the pay of
9 medical workers; the Quentin Mease Community Hospital was named in
10 recognition of his enormous contribution to health care in Houston;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, A principled man of great vision and integrity,
13 Quentin Mease dedicated his life to the ideal of social justice and
14 to the betterment of his community, and his legacy will continue to
15 be an inspiration to all who knew and admired him; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Quentin R. Mease and
19 extend sincere condolences to his daughter, Barbara Ranson, and to
20 his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Quentin R.
24 Mease.