

By: Edwards

H.R. No. 1277

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The gospel music community and southeast Houston  
2 have lost a beloved matriarch with the death of Shirley Joiner on  
3 March 16, 2009; and

4           WHEREAS, A gifted singer, songwriter, musician, and choir  
5 master, Ms. Joiner demonstrated her great faith through her myriad  
6 contributions to her church and to sacred music, and she gave  
7 generously of her time and talents as a mentor to young people; in  
8 1970, "Ms. Shirley" joined with Brenda Waters and Carl Preacher to  
9 organize the Southeast Inspirational Choir, providing a musical  
10 outlet for young people from a number of Houston churches; the three  
11 friends also formed the trio B. C. & S. and recorded for the Savoy  
12 label with both groups, and as the backing vocalists for Sarah  
13 Jordan Powell; and

14           WHEREAS, The choir reached the Top 40 on *Billboard* magazine's  
15 gospel chart with its album *15th Annual Praise and Rededication*  
16 *Concert*, retaining that status for 29 weeks; Ms. Joiner was an  
17 exacting director who brought out the very best in singers, and she  
18 earned their admiration through her warmth, humor, and kindness as  
19 well; and

20           WHEREAS, The mother of four, Ms. Joiner was deeply committed  
21 to all the children of Houston and helped provide moral guidance and  
22 encouragement through Southeast Inspirational Choir Ministries,  
23 organized in 1977; she also served as the executive director of  
24 SEICM's Preparing Holy Disciples, an annual program launched to

1 provide meaningful social and educational experiences as well as  
2 crisis intervention and referral, training opportunities, and role  
3 modeling instruction and counseling for parents and youth leaders;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Joiner became minister of music at Outreach  
6 Missionary Baptist Church in 1969 and produced three recordings for  
7 its music ministry; when she retired from this position after  
8 several decades, she continued to serve the church as youth leader,  
9 Christian education facilitator, and discipleship class teacher,  
10 and she remained an active member of the women and girls ministry;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, For 30 years, Ms. Joiner served with Sister Theola  
13 Booker, V. Michael McKay, and Gwen Pierre as a director of the Al  
14 Edwards Juneteenth Choir; moreover, she conducted workshops and  
15 performed around the country and was a charter member of the Houston  
16 chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America; she helped develop  
17 the musical talents of countless students as the proprietor of  
18 A-All About Music, a business offering instruction in dance, music  
19 theory, organ, voice, and improvisation; and

20 WHEREAS, Shirley Joiner was a blessing in the lives of all who  
21 knew her, and although she will be profoundly missed, the beauty of  
22 her music and her ministry will forever remain an inspiration to  
23 others; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Shirley Joiner and  
26 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family, to her host of  
27 friends, and to all who mourn the passing of this esteemed woman;

1 and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Shirley  
5 Joiner.