

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1745

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Dallas Independent School District is
2 recognizing the distinguished career of educator Melvin D. Traylor
3 by naming the auditorium of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in his
4 honor; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Daingerfield, Mr. Traylor was one of six
6 children born to Mamie and McKinley Traylor; he graduated from
7 Bishop College with a degree in chemistry and physics and went on to
8 further studies in science at The University of Texas at Austin and
9 the University of Houston; he later earned his master's degree in
10 administrative leadership from the University of North Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor first joined Dallas ISD in 1963 as a
12 teacher at Booker T. Washington High School; he then served two
13 years as an education specialist with the United States Army before
14 returning to the district as a teacher at L. G. Pinkston High
15 School; after seven years, he embarked on an administrative path,
16 beginning as an administrative specialist in personnel development
17 and serving as principal of Oran M. Roberts Elementary School,
18 Thomas A. Edison Environmental Science Academy, and Boude Storey
19 Middle School; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1987, Mr. Traylor became principal of Roosevelt
21 High, where his innovative programs succeeded in helping the
22 previously low-performing school reach an exceptional standard of
23 achievement; his ICU Plan, inspired by hospital Intensive Care
24 Units, called for the identification of seniors with critical

1 academic deficiencies and the creation of teams of educational
2 specialists to help them concentrate on those areas; teachers on
3 these teams provided daily tutoring to "stabilize" the condition of
4 students falling behind and bring their academic performance up to
5 the level necessary for graduation; and

6 WHEREAS, This dynamic administrator reorganized
7 responsibilities at Roosevelt to prepare students for the Texas
8 Assessment of Academic Skills; recognizing that some students
9 needed extra attention and encouragement, he assigned each staff
10 member to "adopt" five children in danger of failing and closely
11 oversee their progress, letting them know someone truly cared; he
12 instituted identification badges, making Roosevelt the first DISD
13 school to require them, and heightened anticipation of graduation
14 ceremonies by having staff and teachers attired in full regalia;
15 under his leadership, Roosevelt surpassed all other Title I high
16 schools in the state in terms of consecutive years of improvement on
17 test scores and in attendance; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor was instrumental in developing DISD
19 teacher selection protocol, having conceived of a system analogous
20 to the NFL draft, where the lowest-performing schools would be
21 offered the first chances to hire the best teachers; after 10 years
22 at Roosevelt, he brought his expertise to the DISD Central Office as
23 director of the Office of Student Responsibility; and

24 WHEREAS, New ventures beckoned Mr. Traylor after his
25 retirement from the district in 2000, but he has continued to work
26 in behalf of the youth of Dallas through his subsequent employment
27 as director of the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Alternative

1 Education Program and as director of family programs for Pinnacle,
2 an affordable housing management services company; and

3 WHEREAS, A charter member of the African American Hall of
4 Fame in Dallas, Mr. Traylor gives generously of his time and talent
5 as a member of the board of Baylor Hospital's Tom Landry Fitness
6 Center, and he has served the wider community as a member of the
7 Dallas City Planning Commission, Dallas Area Interfaith, the
8 National Association of Black School Educators, and the Urban
9 League; moreover, he is chair of the board of trustees and a member
10 of the steward board at Porter Temple C.M.E. Methodist Church; in
11 all his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of his wife,
12 Jeffie Traylor, and son, Dwayne R. Traylor; and

13 WHEREAS, Melvin Traylor served DISD with enormous energy,
14 vision, and commitment for more than four decades, and made a
15 positive difference in the lives of countless young people; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby commend Melvin Traylor for his exceptional
19 service to the Dallas Independent School District and extend to him
20 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Traylor as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.