

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1831

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely death of esteemed school administrator
2 Gloria Jean Gorham on April 19, 2009, at the age of 59, has deeply
3 saddened residents of Houston's Fifth Ward and beyond; and

4 WHEREAS, The youngest daughter born to Willis and Lillie
5 Walker, the former Gloria Jean Walker knew as a child growing up in
6 Austin that she wanted to be a teacher; she attended The University
7 of Texas at Austin, where she earned a bachelor's degree in
8 education and anthropology and a master's degree in education, and
9 subsequently began her career with the Houston Independent School
10 District in 1975; through the years, she taught at Hohl, Golfcrest,
11 and West University Elementary Schools and served briefly as an
12 assistant principal at Walnut Bend Elementary; in 1989, she became
13 the principal of Crawford Elementary School in the Fifth Ward; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Gorham soon earned the respect and admiration of
15 the Crawford community with her ever-present smile and dedication
16 to helping students succeed; exemplifying the school's motto, "Only
17 love is spoken here," she regularly hugged students, faculty, and
18 staff alike, and her optimism and guidance were instrumental in
19 Crawford achieving "Recognized" status by the Texas Education
20 Agency from 2006 through 2008; most recently, she was especially
21 proud of a dual-language program that the school had initiated to
22 allow students to learn in English and Spanish; and

23 WHEREAS, Although Gloria Gorham's passing has left a void in
24 the lives of her many friends and loved ones, memories of her joyful

1 nature, leadership, and commitment to education will continue to
2 inspire others for years to come; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Gloria Jean Gorham and
5 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her
6 daughter, Lisa R. McBride; to her mother, Lillie Walker King; to her
7 fiancée, Charles Bryant; to her sisters, Grace Howard and her
8 husband, James, Joyce Addison and her husband, Tobe, and Shirley
9 Walker; to her brother, Willie Lee Jones, and his wife, Annie; to
10 her uncles, Fred Jones and his wife, Betty, and Theodore Jones and
11 his wife, Lillie; and to her other relatives and friends; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the members of her family and that when the Texas House
15 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gloria
16 Jean Gorham.