

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 139

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Dallas lost an admired civic and
2 spiritual leader with the passing of Dr. Charles Alvin Maurice
3 Hunter on June 12, 2011, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Longview on May 7, 1926, Charles Hunter
5 graduated from Bishop College in 1947 and earned a bachelor's
6 degree in divinity from Howard University; he went on to earn his
7 master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Philadelphia
8 Divinity School and an additional master's degree from North Texas
9 State University; after serving as pastor of Trinity Congregational
10 Churches in Tallahassee, Florida, and Athens, Alabama, he moved to
11 Dallas and led the Hope, Glendale, and St. Luke Presbyterian
12 Churches before joining Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church as assistant
13 pastor; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Hunter became the first African American elected
15 as presiding officer of the Northeast Texas Presbytery and served
16 as moderator of Grace Presbytery and the Synod of the Sun of the
17 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); in addition, he chaired the
18 peacemaking committee of Grace Presbytery and created its
19 multicultural conference, which evolved into one of the
20 denomination's popular national events; he was a mentor to many
21 people and touched countless lives in other countries through his
22 mission activities in places such as Nicaragua and Haiti; and

23 WHEREAS, A gifted educator, Dr. Hunter taught sociology at
24 Bishop College and became department director for both sociology

1 and urban affairs; he also served as an adjunct professor at
2 Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas at
3 Arlington, El Centro College, and Richland Community College;
4 moreover, he taught at the Dallas Police Academy and worked in
5 research and development for the Dallas Independent School
6 District; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the first African Americans to run for the
8 Dallas school board, Dr. Hunter served as a Dallas County precinct
9 chair and election judge for more than four decades; he began
10 working to improve race relations in the city in the early 1960s,
11 and in 1968 he formed the Amigos, a multicultural social
12 organization that sponsored picnics, movies, potluck dinners, and
13 other outings to bring together people of diverse ethnicity; while
14 serving on the board of the Greater Dallas Housing and Opportunity
15 Center, he developed and conducted surveys of housing patterns to
16 identify discrimination in the sale and rental of real estate, and
17 he became one of the first to integrate Oak Cliff; greatly
18 benefiting his fellow citizens, he gave generously of his time and
19 expertise as a member of the boards of the Dallas Peace Center, the
20 Alzheimer's Association of Greater Dallas, the Trinity River
21 Authority, and the Greater Dallas Community of Churches; he further
22 served as director of the Common Ground Credit Union and wrote a
23 column on racial matters for the *Dallas Examiner*; and

24 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Dr. Hunter enjoyed the
25 affection and support of his loved ones, including his wife, Annie,
26 and his daughter Alpha, who preceded him in death, as well as his
27 children Rhonda, Rhashell, Byron, and Rosalyn; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Hunter made a lasting, positive impact
2 in Dallas and beyond, and although he will be deeply missed, his
3 dedication to his faith, his family, and his community will remain a
4 lasting source of inspiration to all who were privileged to know
5 this wise and compassionate Texan; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
7 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
8 Dr. Charles Alvin Maurice Hunter and extend sincere condolences to
9 the members of his family: to his children, Rhonda Hunter, the
10 Reverend Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Byron Hunter, and Rosalyn Hunter; to
11 his sisters, Delores Simms and Dorothy Griffin; to his brother,
12 Julian Hunter; to his three grandchildren; and to his other
13 relatives and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Charles
17 A. Hunter.