

By: Beck

H.C.R. No. 139

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an admired public servant
2 and civic leader with the death of former secretary of state Myra
3 McDaniel of Austin on February 25, 2010, at the age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia on December 13, 1932, the
5 former Myra Atwell was the daughter of Eva and Toronto Atwell; she
6 attended the prestigious Philadelphia High School for Girls and
7 earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of
8 Pennsylvania; after her marriage to Reuben McDaniel, she became the
9 proud mother of two children, Diane and Reuben; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. McDaniel began her career as a management
11 analyst and served in administrative positions at Baldwin Wallace
12 College in Ohio and at Indiana University; in 1975, she completed
13 her law degree at The University of Texas School of Law and she went
14 on to work in the office of the Texas attorney general; she became
15 chief of the taxation division in 1979 and then worked as counsel
16 for the Railroad Commission before entering private practice in
17 Midland; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1984, Governor Mark White appointed Mrs. McDaniel
19 as his general counsel; she became the first African American
20 secretary of state in Texas history two years later, and her
21 intellect, integrity, and wisdom greatly benefited her fellow
22 citizens; treating all those around her with thoughtfulness and
23 respect, she won the loyalty of her staff and set a sterling example
24 of leadership during her three-year tenure; and

1 WHEREAS, This esteemed woman continued to serve as a mentor
2 and role model after returning to private practice, and in 1995, she
3 became one of the first African American women to lead a major law
4 firm, Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, and McDaniel, as
5 managing partner; over the course of her distinguished legal
6 career, she served as counsel for Austin Community College and
7 Capital Metro, and she continued to work part-time for Bickerstaff
8 Heath well into her seventies; and

9 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to her community, Mrs. McDaniel won
10 numerous awards for her contributions; she served on the boards of
11 St. Edward's University, Seton Hospital, the Episcopal Seminary of
12 the Southwest, and many other organizations; a valued member of St.
13 James Episcopal Church, she served as a senior warden and edited the
14 church newsletter; more than a mere fan of the UT women's basketball
15 team, she generously shared her time and expertise with young
16 athletes, offering special encouragement over the years to those
17 interested in pursuing law degrees; and

18 WHEREAS, Myra McDaniel inspired innumerable people through
19 her remarkable achievements and unyielding dedication to public
20 service, and her positive influence will continue to resonate in
21 the myriad lives she touched in the years to come; now, therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby pay special tribute to the memory of Myra McDaniel and extend
25 sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her husband,
26 Reuben R. McDaniel, Jr.; to her children, Diane Rhodes and Reuben
27 McDaniel III; to her seven grandchildren and two

1 great-grandchildren; and to her many other relatives and friends;
2 and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
6 Myra McDaniel.