

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 112

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Althea Lewis Renfro of Houston, an esteemed educator  
2 and friend to many, passed away on December 27, 2012, at the age of  
3 85; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on February 10, 1927, to Elijah and  
5 Martha Lewis, "AlphaBelle" Lewis attended Bruce Elementary School  
6 and Phillis Wheatley High School, where she was active in the Purple  
7 and White Squadron and Wheatley's Lovable Troubadours; graduating  
8 at the age of 15, she enrolled at Texas Southern University and went  
9 on to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as her  
10 teaching certification in chemistry, physical science, general  
11 science, homemaking, kindergarten, and elementary education; and

12 WHEREAS, This industrious young woman initially taught in  
13 Louisiana before returning to Texas and joining the staff of the  
14 Double Bayou School in Anahuac; she subsequently went to work for  
15 the Houston Independent School District, and during long tenures at  
16 Crawford and Hohl Elementary Schools, Mrs. Renfro served as a  
17 positive influence on many young people; admired for her  
18 leadership, she chaired the Faculty Advisory Council at Crawford  
19 Elementary and was the United Negro College Fund school  
20 representative; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to her professional achievements,  
22 Mrs. Renfro served as the pianist for three different churches and  
23 directed the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church senior choir and  
24 male chorus; she was a gifted and prolific poet as well who authored

1 more than 300 poems and composed several gospel songs; and

2           WHEREAS, Mrs. Renfro participated in a variety of worthwhile  
3 organizations, including Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the National  
4 Teachers Association, the National Education Association, the  
5 LaVioleta Social and Charity Club, and the Order of the Eastern  
6 Star; she assisted the Red Cross and the Greater Houston Convention  
7 and Visitors Bureau as a volunteer, and she established the Ted  
8 Taylor Fan Club, a group that sponsored field trips and cultural  
9 outings for teens in the Fifth Ward; and

10           WHEREAS, The mother of three children, she was also a devoted  
11 mother figure to the children of her two blended families; before  
12 becoming the beloved wife of Porter Renfro, Jr., she supported her  
13 children in numerous activities, attending countless football  
14 games, marching band performances, and Girl Scout campouts; later,  
15 she and Mr. Renfro became known as "Mommadear" and "Granddaddy" to  
16 their close-knit circle of loved ones; during their 40 years  
17 together, the couple traveled extensively and hosted many  
18 gatherings in their home; and

19           WHEREAS, Althea Renfro made a meaningful difference in the  
20 world around her, and she leaves behind a legacy that will continue  
21 to inspire others for years to come; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Althea Lewis Renfro  
24 and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her  
25 children, Algenita Segars and her husband, Ardie, and Jacky Scott  
26 and his wife, Cynthia; to her grandchildren, Marthea Davis, Jackea  
27 M. Scott, and John W. Davis IV; to her stepchildren, Ronald Bennett

1 and his wife, Joyce, David Earl Renfro, Pat Renfro, Porter Renfro  
2 III, and Porter Renfro IV; and to her other relatives and friends;  
3 and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Althea  
7 Lewis Renfro.