

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 344

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of community leader Dr. Maconda Brown  
2 O'Connor of Houston on May 19, 2012, brought a profound loss to her  
3 family, her wide circle of friends, and countless Texans whose  
4 lives she touched; and

5           WHEREAS, A native of the Bayou City, the former Maconda Brown  
6 was born on May 4, 1930, to George and Alice Brown; she attended  
7 Pine Manor College, and after raising her four children, she  
8 returned to school at the age of 51; and

9           WHEREAS, Dr. O'Connor graduated from the University of  
10 St. Thomas and went on to earn a master's degree from Smith College,  
11 where she continued her studies and completed her doctorate in  
12 1988; she made her career in social work; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. O'Connor believed that all children deserve  
14 second chances and set up office in a broom closet in one of  
15 Houston's toughest juvenile detention centers in an effort to reach  
16 those most in need; a licensed advanced clinical practitioner, she  
17 also maintained a small private practice to offer therapeutic  
18 services to underprivileged families; and

19           WHEREAS, Outside of her profession, Dr. O'Connor helped  
20 countless area young people as cofounder of the Houston A+  
21 Challenge and the Greater Houston Collaborative for Children, which  
22 provided early education to nearly 84,000 participants; she further  
23 gave back through her contributions to Harris County Protective  
24 Services, El Hogar de Ninos, the Child Abuse Prevention Network,

1 the Mental Health Association of Houston and Harris County, and the  
2 Harris County Juvenile Probation Department; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Connor demonstrated a commitment to the  
4 greater community as well, sharing her time as a member of the  
5 boards of the Discovery Green Conservancy, the Brookings  
6 Institution, the American Leadership Forum, Baylor College of  
7 Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, The Rice Center for Education,  
8 the University of Houston-Downtown, and the Houston Area Women's  
9 Center; as both president and chair of one of Houston's most  
10 prolific charities, the Brown Foundation, her dedication to helping  
11 people in need was legendary; she also actively supported the  
12 Democratic Party and Emily's List; and

13 WHEREAS, This loving matriarch shared the richness of her  
14 life with a family that included four children, George, Thomas,  
15 Nancy, and John, nine grandchildren, Ryan, Kelly, Maconda, Nancy,  
16 Andrew, Ralph, Rebecca, Ian, and Charlie, and a  
17 great-granddaughter, Louisa; and

18 WHEREAS, Unparalleled in her advocacy and activism, Maconda  
19 O'Connor inspired hope while mapping meaningful pathways to success  
20 for future generations; although she will be deeply missed, her  
21 legacy will continue to resonate in her hometown for years to come,  
22 and her memory will be carried in the hearts of the many people  
23 whose lives she touched during her time on this earth; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Maconda Brown  
27 O'Connor and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family:

1 to her four children, George O'Connor, Thomas O'Connor, Nancy  
2 Abendshein, and John O'Connor, and their spouses, Lynn O'Connor,  
3 Barbie O'Connor, Mark Abendshein, and Sarah O'Connor; to her nine  
4 grandchildren, Ryan O'Connor and his wife, Amy, Kelly O'Connor,  
5 Maconda Abinader and her husband, Sacha, Nancy O'Connor, Andrew  
6 Abendshein, Ralph Abendshein, Rebecca O'Connor, Ian O'Connor, and  
7 Charlie O'Connor; to her great-granddaughter, Louisa O'Connor; to  
8 her siblings, Nancy Brown Negley, Louisa S. Sarofim, and Mike  
9 Stude; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
10 further

11         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
14 Dr. Maconda Brown O'Connor.