

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 596

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through exemplary public service
2 drew to a close with the passing of noted educator James Larance
3 Hill of Austin on September 2, 2012, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Jerome and Ida Bell Hill, Dr. Hill was
5 born in Austin on August 21, 1928; he earned his bachelor's degree
6 at Huston-Tillotson College and also held a master's degree in
7 educational psychology and a doctoral degree in educational
8 administration from The University of Texas at Austin; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Hill began his career in the Abilene Independent
10 School District as a high school counselor, mathematics teacher,
11 and band director; subsequently, he became deputy commissioner of
12 the Texas Education Agency and then director of the southwest field
13 office for Educational Testing Service, with responsibility for a
14 five-state area; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1993, Dr. Hill joined The University of Texas at
16 Austin as associate vice president for administration and public
17 affairs; he was named the university's first African American vice
18 president in 2000, and, as vice president for community and school
19 relations, he took on general management of the Hogg Foundation for
20 Mental Health, the University Interscholastic League, Neighborhood
21 Longhorns, University Outreach programs, and Pre-college Youth
22 Development, among other areas; and

23 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan facilitated the university's
24 relationships with schools, school systems, and state agencies, and

1 he provided invaluable leadership in promoting the diversity of the
2 student body and strengthening the institution's relationships
3 with minorities and neighboring communities; he also developed
4 mutually beneficial partnerships with state leaders and key
5 constituents; over the years, he shared his vast expertise with the
6 Task Force for Austin Major Employees, the Martin Luther King, Jr.,
7 Statue Committee, and the Austin Entrepreneurial Project, among
8 other groups; although he retired in January 2007, he continued to
9 benefit the university as senior vice president and special
10 assistant to the president; and

11 WHEREAS, A founding member of the Texas Alliance of Black
12 School Educators, Dr. Hill actively supported the mission of the
13 organization; he received numerous accolades for his far-reaching
14 accomplishments in education, including the Austin Area Urban
15 League-Whitney M. Young, Jr., Award, the Ex-Students' Association
16 Legacy Award, and a commendation for his long and dedicated service
17 as a member of the State Agency Coordinating Committee; in tribute
18 to his achievements, the African American Staff Advocating Progress
19 Association at UT established the James Hill Scholarship Fund; and

20 WHEREAS, Gracious, kind, and caring, James Hill won a special
21 place in the hearts of innumerable people as a mentor and role
22 model; although he is deeply missed, his exceptional contributions
23 to education and to The University of Texas at Austin community will
24 continue to resonate widely in the years to come; now, therefore, be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. James Larance

1 Hill and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to
2 his wife of more than 62 years, Geraldine Hill; to his daughter,
3 Jacqueline Howard, and her husband, Charles; to his grandchildren,
4 Pamela Tyus and her husband, David, and Charles Howard and his wife,
5 Dionne; to his great-grandchildren, Christopher James Howard,
6 Anthony Tyus, and Miles Lawrence Howard; to his sisters, Irene
7 Thompson and Wray Plicque; to his brother, Doxy Hill; and to his
8 many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
11 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr.
12 James Larance Hill.