

By: Miles

H.R. No. 800

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Edith Irby Jones has devoted her life to serving
2 others, and the achievements of this trailblazing physician, civil
3 rights advocate, and humanitarian are truly deserving of
4 recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1927 to an Arkansas sharecropper and a
6 domestic worker, Dr. Jones was inspired to become a physician after
7 her older sister died during a typhoid epidemic in the 1930s; she
8 realized then that medical care was essential to the survival of
9 sick children and that poverty adversely affected the ability of
10 many families, including her own, to pay for lifesaving treatment;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Jones's overwhelming desire to prevent similar
13 tragedies eventually led her to the University of Arkansas College
14 of Medicine, where she became the first African American woman to be
15 admitted; she later became the first African American woman
16 resident at Baylor College of Medicine and the first female elected
17 president of the National Medical Association; and

18 WHEREAS, After earning her degree in 1952, Dr. Jones
19 established a successful career in Arkansas; she also took up the
20 cause of civil rights and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
21 and other leaders of the movement; as a member of the "Freedom
22 Four," she traveled the Deep South, speaking at homes and churches,
23 urging people to join the struggle for justice and equality; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1962, Dr. Jones set up a private practice in

1 Houston's Third Ward, a practice she maintained for six decades;
2 later in the 1960s, she joined other African American physicians in
3 founding Mercy Hospital, which served impoverished patients in the
4 southeast part of the city; during the course of her career,
5 Dr. Jones held privileges at a number of Houston hospitals, served
6 as chief of staff at Riverside General Hospital, and served as a
7 clinical assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of
8 Medicine and at The University of Texas Health Science Center at
9 Houston; she has also established medical clinics in Haiti and
10 Mexico and consulted on health care in numerous other countries;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Admired and respected by her peers, Dr. Jones has
13 received many prestigious accolades; the American Society of
14 Internal Medicine named her Internist of the Year in 1988, and in
15 2001, she was presented with the Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for
16 Volunteerism and Community Service by the ASIM and the American
17 College of Physicians; she has been inducted into the Hall of Fame
18 at the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, and she is the
19 recipient of honorary doctoral degrees from Missouri Valley
20 College, Mary Holmes College, Lindenwood University, and Knoxville
21 College; the City of Houston honored her in 1986 with Edith Irby
22 Jones Day, and the former Southeast Memorial Hospital named its
23 ambulatory center in her honor; a charter member of Physicians for
24 Human Rights, Dr. Jones was nominated as a Local Legend by U.S.
25 Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, in conjunction with a National
26 Library of Medicine program highlighting women who have made
27 enduring contributions to the medical profession; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Edith Jones is a skilled and compassionate
2 healer who demonstrated exemplary courage in breaking through
3 racial and gender barriers, and her unwavering commitment to
4 providing health care to those in need has had a positive impact on
5 the lives of countless individuals; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
7 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Edith Irby Jones for her exceptional
8 contributions to medicine and the advancement of racial equality
9 and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Dr. Jones as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.