

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 1668

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 St.  
10 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 1998, at the age of 68; determined to make a positive difference,  
13 she pursued a career in social work; and

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

20           WHEREAS, Outside of her profession, Dr. O'Connor helped  
21 countless area young people as cofounder of Children at Risk, the  
22 Houston A+ Challenge, and the Greater Houston Collaborative for  
23 Children, which provided early education to nearly 84,000  
24 participants; she further gave back through her contributions to

1 Harris County Protective Services, El Hogar de Ninos, the Child  
2 Abuse Prevention Network, the Mental Health Association of Houston  
3 and Harris County, and the Harris County Juvenile Probation  
4 Department; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Unparalleled in her advocacy and activism, Maconda  
21 O'Connor inspired hope while showing many young Texans the path to a  
22 brighter future, and her legacy will continue to resonate in the  
23 lives of those she touched for years to come; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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