

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1670

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close when Lela Mae Hill Wicks of Dallas passed away on April 1,  
3 2013, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Elijah and Earlie B. Hamilton, Lela  
5 Mae Hill was born on April 17, 1926, in Peno, Oklahoma, and moved  
6 with her family first to Garland and then to Dallas; she graduated  
7 from Lincoln High School in 1944 and enrolled in Phillips Business  
8 School, and later in the 1940s, she was employed in a clerical  
9 position in Washington, D.C.; returning to Texas, she earned a  
10 bachelor's degree from Bishop College, where she was a charter  
11 member of the Delta Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and  
12 she later achieved a master's degree in education from North Texas  
13 State University; and

14 WHEREAS, On June 12, 1954, she married Samuel Leon Wicks, and  
15 over the course of their 58 years together, their lives were further  
16 enriched by the addition of a daughter, Candace; Mr. and Mrs. Wicks  
17 shared a talent for writing and helped preserve local African  
18 American history by researching and contributing to the annual  
19 publication, *Black Dallas Remembered*; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wicks was a longtime employee of the Dallas  
21 Independent School District; she was initially hired as a secretary  
22 at Frederick Douglass Elementary School and began teaching in 1957;  
23 during her 37 years of service, this esteemed educator taught many  
24 young Texans at Colonial, Erasmo Seguin, and John W. Carpenter

1 Elementary Schools; and

2 WHEREAS, Active in her community, she was a valued member of  
3 New Hope Baptist Church and held various leadership positions,  
4 serving as a Sunday school teacher, as a member of the deaconess  
5 council, and as chair of the Church Archives Committee; in  
6 addition, Mrs. Wicks volunteered her time and talents with the  
7 Showers of Blessings Ministry at the Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
8 Community Center, the YWCA, Church Women United, the Bishop College  
9 Alumni Association, the Glenview Homeowners Association, and the  
10 Dallas chapter of Jack and Jill of America; moreover, she belonged  
11 to the Nine of Diamonds Bridge Club for 57 years and remained  
12 involved in her sorority through the Dallas Alumnae chapter; and

13 WHEREAS, Lela Mae Wicks possessed a generosity of spirit that  
14 expressed itself in myriad ways, and countless lives were forever  
15 enriched by her warmth and kindness; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Lela Mae Hill Wicks  
18 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family: to her  
19 daughter, Candace Wicks; to her sister, Willie Sue Jefferson; to  
20 her brother, William Earl Hill, and his wife, Joyce; to her  
21 sister-in-law, Dorothy Johnson; to her godson, Daryl L. Jones; to  
22 her aunt, Dora Neal; and to her other relatives and many friends;  
23 and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lela Mae  
27 Hill Wicks.