

By: Miles

H.R. No. 1994

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Labor union rights advocate and dedicated civic
2 leader John W. Bland of Houston has made a lasting and positive
3 difference in Texas and beyond; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of San Augustine, John Bland was born on
5 March 20, 1940; he graduated from Phillis Wheatley High School in
6 Houston and attended Texas Southern University, where he studied
7 business education; on March 4, 1960, while a student at TSU,
8 Mr. Bland took part in the first sit-in to be staged in Houston, and
9 he soon became a founding member of the Progressive Youth
10 Association, which was instrumental in securing the integration of
11 public accommodations in the Bayou City; during his tenure with the
12 PYA, Mr. Bland also campaigned for the hiring of African Americans
13 as clerks and salespeople at major retail stores, such as Foley's,
14 Walgreens, and J. C. Penney; and

15 WHEREAS, After graduating from college, Mr. Bland joined
16 HouTran, now known as Metro, as a bus operator and became active in
17 Transport Workers Union of America Local 260, which he served as
18 steward, vice president, secretary-treasurer, international
19 organizer, and representative; passionate about protecting the
20 rights of workers, Mr. Bland has organized transportation
21 employees in the Houston, Aldine, North Forest, Dayton, Lufkin,
22 Humble, Conroe, and Spring Independent School Districts, as well as
23 in the El Paso ISD and in several West Texas school districts; he
24 currently serves on the national TWU Transit Division staff as an

1 international vice president and as deputy director; in addition,
2 he serves as Texas vice president of the A. Philip Randolph
3 Institute, as vice president of the Texas State AFL-CIO, and as
4 president of the Houston chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade
5 Unionists; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Bland has long played an active role in civic
7 affairs as well; a precinct judge for more than 30 years, he has
8 held a seat on the Houston Police Department Citizen Review
9 Committee, and he currently serves as vice president of the
10 Summerwood Homeowners Association board; he also gives generously
11 of his time and talents to Abundant Faith Baptist Church, where he
12 is the administrator, chair of trustees, and a deacon; and

13 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Bland has enjoyed the love
14 and support of his wife of 50 years, Betty Davis Bland; they are the
15 proud parents of two daughters, Dr. Debbie Bland Nicholson and
16 Fayettea Bland, and they have been delighted to welcome into their
17 family their grandchild, Jordan Nicholson; and

18 WHEREAS, John Bland has devoted his life to the pursuit of
19 social and economic justice, and he is indeed deserving of
20 recognition for his spirited, unflagging efforts in behalf of his
21 fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor John W. Bland for his outstanding
24 contributions as a labor advocate, civil rights champion, and
25 engaged citizen and extend to him sincere best wishes for the
26 future; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Bland as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.