

By: Miles

H.R. No. 2785

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Respected Houston coach Oliver Brown passed away on
2 May 1, 2013, at the age of 81, and his loss is keenly felt by all
3 those who were privileged to know him; and

4 WHEREAS, An accomplished athlete as well as a coach, Oliver
5 Brown earned his nickname, "Show," while playing football at Texas
6 Southern University, and he was a member of the 1952 TSU team that
7 claimed the National Negro Championship; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of his outstanding career in
9 education, Coach Brown worked at a number of campuses in the Houston
10 Independent School District, including Lockett Junior High School,
11 Worthing High School, and Phillis Wheatley High School, and he
12 coached teams in track and field, football, and basketball; he was
13 also the founder of the Obie Williams Relays and served as the
14 event's director from 1967 to 1997; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Brown mentored a number of athletes who went
16 on to notable success; while working as a defensive coordinator at
17 Worthing, he coached Mike Singletary, who later played for the
18 Chicago Bears and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame,
19 and he also guided Cliff Branch, who won three Super Bowl
20 championships with the Oakland Raiders; as a track coach, he
21 trained sprinter Debra Edwards, who competed in the Olympics in
22 1972 and 1976; many other track and field competitors excelled
23 under his direction as well, and his teams won numerous district and
24 regional titles and a state championship in 1966; and

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of his remarkable achievements as a
2 teacher, role model, and motivator, Coach Brown was named a Hall of
3 Honor inductee by the Houston Coaches Association, the Gulf Coast
4 Scholastic Track Coaches Association, and the Texas
5 African-American Coaches Association; moreover, he compiled a long
6 list of coach of the year and outstanding service awards before his
7 retirement in 1998 after four decades with Houston ISD; and

8 WHEREAS, Oliver Brown devoted himself to the worthy goal of
9 helping young people to learn the values of responsibility and hard
10 work, and in so doing, he made a positive difference in the lives of
11 countless Houston students; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Oliver Brown and
14 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family, to his
15 colleagues and friends, and to the many individuals who benefited
16 from his leadership; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Oliver
20 Brown.