

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 479

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a respected educator and labor leader  
2 drew to a close with the passing of Linda Bridges of Austin on  
3 January 13, 2015, at the age of 65; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Bridges began her notable career as an  
5 elementary special education teacher in the Corpus Christi  
6 Independent School District; she later became a charter member of  
7 the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers and went on to  
8 serve the organization as president for nearly a quarter-century;  
9 in that role, she helped develop the process of elected  
10 consultation, which enables district faculty and staff members to  
11 elect an organization to represent them in discussions with the  
12 administration regarding wages, benefits, and working conditions,  
13 and that innovative system was quickly adopted by other districts  
14 throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to her outstanding efforts with the  
16 local union, Ms. Bridges served the Texas chapter of the AFT as  
17 chair of the legislative committee and as a member of the executive  
18 committee and the executive council; her incisive leadership was  
19 rewarded with her election as president of the state chapter in  
20 2005, and over the course of her decade-long tenure, she worked  
21 tirelessly in behalf of millions of Texas students and played an  
22 instrumental part in expanding the organization's membership from  
23 48,000 to more than 65,000; she also served the federation at the  
24 national level as vice president, as chair of the subcommittee on

1 nonbargaining states, and as a member of the organizing and  
2 advisory committees; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Bridges gave generously of her time and talents  
4 to a number of other organizations as well, serving as vice  
5 president and as a trustee of the Texas AFL-CIO, as president of the  
6 Coastal Bend Labor Council, as a director of the United Way of the  
7 Coastal Bend, as chair of the Juvenile Assessment Center, and as a  
8 regent of Del Mar College; and

9 WHEREAS, A woman of great vision and integrity, Linda Bridges  
10 benefited the lives of countless students and teachers through her  
11 immeasurable contributions to public education in Texas, and her  
12 achievements will continue to resonate for years to come; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Linda Bridges and  
16 extend sincere sympathy to all those who mourn her passing; and, be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives  
19 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Linda Bridges.