

By: Deshotel

H.R. No. 1978

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Those Texans who give generously of their time and  
2 talents to benefit the larger community make the world a better  
3 place through their actions and their example, and Dr. Paula  
4 Francis-Richardson of Port Arthur is one such person; and

5           WHEREAS, A native of Port Arthur, Dr. Francis-Richardson  
6 graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School; she pursued her higher  
7 education at Texas Southern University, where she earned her degree  
8 and became involved in the Houston Voter Registration Project; she  
9 later went on to complete her Ph.D. in humanities at Shreveport  
10 Bible College; and

11           WHEREAS, Dr. Francis-Richardson was employed as a program  
12 consultant in the governor's office, overseeing the Job Training  
13 Partnership Act in five regions, and she later worked with  
14 proprietary schools for the Texas Education Agency; she returned to  
15 her hometown in 1993 and began her career in the classroom, serving  
16 as a teacher with the Port Arthur Independent School District; and

17           WHEREAS, This esteemed educator established the Tekoa  
18 Academy of Accelerated Studies in August 1999, originally serving  
19 students from kindergarten through sixth grade; today, the school  
20 operates an additional campus in Orange and provides a  
21 comprehensive education to pre-K through 12th grade students;  
22 moreover, Dr. Francis-Richardson's valuable knowledge and  
23 expertise leading Tekoa have helped the institution earn STEM  
24 school recognition from the state comptroller's office; and

1           WHEREAS,       Respected       within       her       profession,  
2 Dr. Francis-Richardson is a member of a number of worthwhile  
3 organizations, including the Association for Supervision and  
4 Curriculum Development and the Texas Charter School Association;  
5 she has participated in the Brookings Institution executive  
6 leadership program and the National Political Congress of Black  
7 Women, and she is a lifetime member of the NAACP; in addition, she  
8 has served area citizens through her tenure as vice president of the  
9 Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation; and

10           WHEREAS,   Dr. Francis-Richardson has demonstrated an  
11 exceptional commitment to providing many Texans with a strong  
12 academic foundation on which to build, and it is a privilege to  
13 honor her for her accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Paula Francis-Richardson on her  
16 outstanding contributions to the betterment of her community and  
17 extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

18           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Dr. Francis-Richardson as an expression of high regard  
20 by the Texas House of Representatives.