

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 2784

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, At the age of 109, Emma Primas of Houston ranks among
2 the most venerable Americans, and she delighted the president of
3 the United States by traveling to Washington, D.C., to meet him at
4 an Easter prayer breakfast held on April 7, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Maynard on August 5, 1905, 15 years before
6 women's suffrage, Mrs. Primas has long exercised her right to vote,
7 and she paid poll taxes when she had to in order to make her voice
8 heard at the ballot box; she became a member of the NAACP and the
9 Progressive Civic Club, and in 2008, she did her part as a voter to
10 help Barack Obama become the nation's first African American
11 president; on the occasion of her visit to the White House, she was
12 rewarded with a kiss on the cheek from the leader of the free world;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Primas grew up in the country and helped with
15 every task on the family farm, learning the value of hard work,
16 discipline, prudence, and strong community relationships; she
17 began her formal education around the age of 10, and as a teenager,
18 she took after-school jobs washing dishes in homes; following her
19 marriage to Charlie Williams, she became the proud mother of a
20 daughter, Ella Bernice, and in 1938, she moved to Houston; and

21 WHEREAS, Hearing of better opportunities in California,
22 Mrs. Primas and her family relocated in 1943 to San Francisco,
23 where she worked as a server at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and then
24 as a streetcar driver; she later became a school dietician and was

1 quickly put in charge of menus for five schools; all the while, she
2 managed her money carefully, and when she returned to Houston, she
3 opened a grocery store; she helped numerous customers during hard
4 times by allowing them to take what they needed and defer payment
5 until circumstances improved; in addition, she was a matron of the
6 Heroines of Jericho for 50 years and held many offices; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Primas now shares a home with her
8 granddaughter, Denise Mickey; she is the oldest member of the
9 Houston Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, and she is a
10 longtime member of First Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church;
11 moreover, she has continued to participate in community events, and
12 she remains a staunch advocate for the democratic process, urging
13 younger people to vote; and

14 WHEREAS, An inspiring role model, Emma Primas has earned the
15 deep admiration of her fellow citizens, and by sharing her
16 thoughtful perspectives on more than a century of change, she
17 enriches the lives of all who are privileged to know her; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
20 Legislature hereby honor Emma Primas for her contributions to her
21 community and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued
22 happiness; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Mrs. Primas as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.