

By: Ashby

H.R. No. 36

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former students and staff of the G. B. Bennett
2 School in Buffalo are gathering together on June 17, 2017, for their
3 biennial reunion and banquet; and

4 WHEREAS, The G. B. Bennett School traces its roots back to
5 July 3, 1939, when the Buffalo Independent School District Board of
6 Trustees decided to apply to the Works Progress Administration for
7 funds to build a public school for local African American students;
8 construction began on a site secured from the Negro Baptist
9 Association, and the facility, named in honor of the Reverend G. B.
10 Bennett, pastor of New St. Holland Baptist Church, opened its doors
11 in 1942; following the integration of Buffalo ISD, the school was
12 permanently closed in 1969, after 27 years of operation; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2017 G. B. Bennett School alumni banquet offers
14 former Bulldogs a welcome opportunity to reflect on the knowledge
15 and skills they acquired as students, as well as on their fond
16 memories of Bennett's many extracurricular activities and events,
17 which included basketball games, May Day festivities, socials held
18 in the auditorium, and plays staged at the beginning and end of each
19 school year; and

20 WHEREAS, Receiving special recognition at this year's
21 reunion are the school's five surviving faculty members and staff:
22 fifth- and sixth-grade teacher Ralph Cormier; fourth- through
23 sixth-grade teacher Margaret Heggins; music teacher Bobbye
24 Bullock; homemaking and language arts teacher Birdene Perry; and

1 teacher's aide Lillie West; and

2 WHEREAS, During the nearly three decades that it was open,
3 the G. B. Bennett School gave numerous area youth a strong academic
4 foundation on which to build, and in so doing, it had a positive and
5 lasting impact on the Buffalo community; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2017 G. B. Bennett School
8 reunion and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes
9 for a meaningful and memorable event.