

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 637

In Memory  
of  
William Charles Akins

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Austin in mourning the loss of William Charles Akins, a beloved member of the community, who died March 29, 2017, at the age of 84; and

**WHEREAS**, A native of East Austin, Charles Akins was born on November 9, 1932; he attended Blackshear Elementary School and Kealing Junior High School, and he was a graduate of the original L. C. Anderson High School on Pennsylvania Street; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Akins studied history and English at Huston-Tillotson College and earned a bachelor's degree in 1954; he later earned a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University, and in 1982, Huston-Tillotson University awarded him an honorary doctorate of humane letters; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Akins began his career as an educator in Marlin, Texas, and he returned to Austin in 1959 to begin teaching at L. C. Anderson High School on Thompson Street, where he was named Teacher of the Year in 1962; when the Austin Independent School District began the process of integrating schools, he transferred to Johnston High School, where he served as the first crossover teacher in the district; he served as assistant principal at Anderson High School and at Lanier High School, and he continued to play an instrumental role in the district's desegregation initiatives; he spent his last nine years of in-school service as principal of the new L. C. Anderson High School on Mesa Drive, and he was promoted to the position of assistant superintendant and later associate superintendent of community relations for the district in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Akins retired after 44 years in education, and he stayed connected to his field as a board member for the Region 13 Education Service Center and other educational organizations; in 2000, the Austin Independent School District honored his impressive career and legacy in the city with the opening of W. Charles Akins High School; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles Akins was a distinguished civic leader who received numerous awards over the years for his contributions to his profession and his community; in addition to being a pioneer in education, he also created inroads into media when he became the first African American television sportscaster in Austin at KLRU; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of deep spiritual devotion, he served the Wesley United Methodist Church in numerous capacities, including as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences for the United Methodist Church; and

S.R. No. 637

**WHEREAS**, Charles Akins was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather and a treasured citizen of the Lone Star State, and he leaves behind memories that will long be cherished by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of William Charles Akins; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charles Akins.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 18, 2017, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate