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By:  Davis of Dallas H.R. No. 63

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with the death of former Tarrant County commissioner Dionne Phillips Bagsby on January 10, 2019, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Born in Phoenix, Illinois, to Paul and Ann Phillips, Dionne Phillips earned her bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University, her certification in speech pathology from George Peabody College for Teachers, and her master's degree from Texas Christian University; joined in matrimony to James A. Bagsby, she was the proud mother of two children, Dionne Bagsby Jones and James Tipkins Bagsby, and later in life she was blessed with four grandchildren, Kirbe, Kelli, Josiah, and Elijah, and five step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Ms. Bagsby moved with her husband to Fort Worth, where she was employed as a speech therapist for Fort Worth ISD and helped the district work toward a peaceful integration of Fort Worth schools; she devoted much of her time to community activism, recruiting qualified candidates to run for public office and playing a leading role in the establishment of the Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Ms. Bagsby ran for office herself and became the first woman and the first African American to win a seat on the Tarrant County Commissioners Court; she served as commissioner for Precinct 1 until 2005, and during her 16-year tenure, she was a champion for improving education and increasing the employment of women and minorities; she also expanded access to health care by working to open community clinics across the county, helped establish an immunization program, and guided grant money to women's shelters in Fort Worth and Arlington; and

WHEREAS, This dynamic woman continued to contribute to her community even in retirement, serving on the boards of United Way, the Jubilee Theatre, Trinity Terrace, and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Development Program, among others; she was a recipient of the Legacy Award from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and a sub-courthouse in southwest Tarrant County was named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, A woman of profound religious faith, Dionne Bagsby lived by the words of Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded," and the legacy of her service to her family and her community will forever inspire all those who knew and loved her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dionne Phillips Bagsby and extend heartfelt sympathy to her family and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dionne Phillips Bagsby.