86R9879 GM-D

By:  Johnson of Harris H.R. No. 291

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly cause for celebration, and Essie Beatrice Stephens of Houston reached that impressive milestone on February 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hosston, Louisiana, in 1919, Mrs. Stephens and her sister were raised by their maternal grandparents in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, where they attended school at Mt. Olive Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Stephens was joined in matrimony to Luther Hoosin Stephens in 1939, and she shared her life with him for 31 years until his death in 1970; she is the mother of three daughters, Erma Ballenger, Agnes Parham, and the late Louise Peters, and she has also been a mother to Rosetta Mayes; over the years, she has been further blessed with grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, A longtime resident of Houston, Mrs. Stephens was actively engaged in the Independence Heights neighborhood, and she previously worked for several families as a housekeeper; a wonderful seamstress, she is skilled at designing, sewing, and altering everything from children's clothing to wedding gowns; she is also an expert gardener, renowned for her watermelons, okra, tomatoes, green beans, and collard and mustard greens; deeply devoted to her faith, she has been a valued member of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church for nearly 80 years; and

WHEREAS, A source of wisdom and inspiration, Essie Stephens has witnessed a panorama of change during a historic century, and her 100th birthday offers a welcome opportunity for her loved ones to acknowledge the special place she holds in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Essie Beatrice Stephens on her 100th birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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