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By:  Dutton H.R. No. 1174

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The 90th birthday of an esteemed Texan is indeed cause for celebration, and Jewell McDade McGowen of Houston is marking this significant milestone in her life on April 29, 2019, in the company of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hempstead in 1929, the former Jewell McDade is the daughter of Willie Mose and Leola McDade, and she grew up with two siblings, Joe and Wilma; as a student at Prairie View A&M University, she met the love of her life, Ernest B. McGowen; they married and became the parents of four children, Ernest, Jewell Janis, Cynthia Elaine, and Larry Keith; with the passing years, she has been blessed with 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McGowen holds a bachelor's degree in business education from Texas Southern University and a master's degree in counseling and guidance from Prairie View A&M University; for more than four decades, she was a teacher and guidance counselor for the Houston Independent School District, serving at W. E. Miller Jr. High School, Francis Scott Key Middle School, and the High School for Health Professions; she received several HISD Master Teacher and Counselor of the Year Awards, as well as the district's Harriet Tubman Award; and

WHEREAS, Committed to helping young people achieve their full potential, Mrs. McGowen joined with her husband to found a fine arts development program, the Northeast Cultural Arts Council; she has been very active in civic life, serving as state treasurer of the Texas Democratic Party, as a Harris County precinct chair, and as the inaugural president of the Houston Black American Democrats; in addition, she was appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to the Board of Law Examiners, and she has served on the advisory boards of such organizations as Julia C. Hester House, True Blue Community Endowment, Alley Theatre, and the Greater Houston Women's Foundation; she is a life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the Houston YWCA, a charter member of the Houston Metropolitan Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, and a congregant of Wesley United Methodist Church, where she serves as worship chair; her many civic accolades include the Variety Club's Cinderella Award; and

WHEREAS, Admired by all for her contributions to education and to the wider community, Jewell McGowen is a source of enduring inspiration, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring her on this joyous occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Jewell McDade McGowen on her 90th 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. McGowen as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.