86R31679 JGH-D

By:  Bonnen of Brazoria H.R. No. 1560

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Two remarkable sisters, Wilhelm Williams Moye of Cedar Lake and Tena Williams Simien of Sweeny, have earned great distinction through their combined eight decades as teachers in Matagorda and Brazoria Counties; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as two of the oldest living former teachers in the nation, Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien are the last surviving members of a prominent family of educators, and they were on the front lines of desegregation in the 1960s; their father, Joel Williams Sr., was a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, and he served for nearly 50 years as principal, teacher, and bus driver for the Van Vleck Independent School District; their siblings, the late Joel Williams Jr., Girtha Woodard, Augustus Williams Sr., and Fay Woodard, were all teachers as well; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1922, Wilhelm Moye is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University, and she began her career in the 1940s at Sargent Colored School; she went on to teach typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, and business math at O. H. Herman High School in the Van Vleck ISD, and in 1965, she became the first African American teacher at Van Vleck High School; she retired in the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Tena Simien, who was born in 1924, graduated from Jarvis Christian College, and she began her career at Jerusalem Community School in the 1940s; she later taught English at George Washington Carver High School, where she was a supervisor, program director, and sponsor of the drama club; in 1966, she was one of the first six black teachers to be hired at Sweeny Junior High School in the Sweeny ISD; she taught junior high school English until her retirement in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Known affectionately as the Queen BEES (for Business and English Education Sisters), Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien count many community leaders among their former students, including a school superintendent and a mayor, as well as school board members, coaches, professional football players, city managers, city council members, and bank executives; and

WHEREAS, Leaders in their profession, Wilhelm Moye and Tena Simien have made a positive difference in the lives of generations of area Texans, and they have earned the admiration and affection of all who are privileged to know them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend Wilhelm Williams Moye and Tena Williams Simien for their outstanding careers in education and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared for Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.