

By: Collier

H.C.R. No. 54

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a renowned civil rights
2 leader and public servant with the death of former State
3 Representative Reby Cary of Fort Worth on December 7, 2018, at the
4 age of 98; and

5 WHEREAS, Reby Cary was born in Fort Worth on September 9,
6 1920, to Maggie B. Cary and the Reverend Smith Cary Jr.; he grew up
7 during the era of segregation and attended all-black schools,
8 graduating from I. M. Terrell High School in 1937 and earning a
9 bachelor's degree in history and political science from Prairie
10 View A&M College in 1941; answering his nation's call to duty at the
11 start of World War II, he became one of the first African Americans
12 to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard as an apprentice seaman and one of
13 the first to train as a radio operator; he served in combat in the
14 South Pacific and participated in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian,
15 Leyte, Luzon, and Okinawa; and

16 WHEREAS, Following his discharge in November 1945, Mr. Cary
17 returned to Texas and cofounded the Fort Worth Negro Chamber of
18 Commerce and the McDonald College of Industrial Arts, a vocational
19 school for black veterans who were excluded from white schools;
20 after completing his master's degree, he began teaching history and
21 government, first at Dunbar Middle School and later at Tarrant
22 County Junior College; in 1969, he became the first African
23 American professor at The University of Texas at Arlington, where
24 he also served as associate dean of student affairs; while there, he

1 led the efforts to remove the Confederate flag from the campus and
2 to change the school's mascot from the Rebels to the Mavericks; in
3 addition, he helped establish the chapters of two fraternities and
4 a sorority at UTA, and he played a leading role in the creation of
5 the school's Minorities Cultural Center, one of the first of its
6 kind in the Southwest; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Cary was a member of the Texas House of
8 Representatives from 1979 to 1985, and over the course of his three
9 terms in the legislature, he served as the budget and oversight
10 chair of the Regions, Compacts, and Districts Committee, as vice
11 chair of the Energy Committee, and as a member of the County
12 Affairs, the Rules and Resolutions, and the Government Organization
13 Committees; moreover, he was the first African American elected to
14 the Fort Worth school board, and he was a founding member of the
15 Frederick Douglass Republicans of Fort Worth and Tarrant County,
16 the president of the Black Republican Council of Texas, and a member
17 of the State Republican Executive Committee; and

18 WHEREAS, Deeply engaged in a range of community issues,
19 Mr. Cary was active with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority,
20 the Tax Appraisal Review Board of Tarrant County, the Youth
21 Services Bureau of Tarrant County, the Fort Worth/Tarrant County
22 Minority Leaders and Citizens Council, the Fort Worth Metropolitan
23 Black Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, the United
24 Way, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; in addition to his other
25 accomplishments, he was a prolific author, producing more than 20
26 volumes about the history of African Americans in Fort Worth; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Cary enjoyed the love and support of his wife,

1 Nadine, and they shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 58 years
2 until her passing in 2003; the couple were the parents of a
3 treasured daughter, Faith; and

4 WHEREAS, Reby Cary made a lasting, positive difference
5 through his strong commitment to social progress and public
6 affairs, and his contributions and achievements will long resonate
7 in the community and state he proudly called home; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby pay tribute to the life of former State Representative Reby
11 Cary and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing;
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
16 Reby Cary.