

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 63

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, In 1988, Ms. Bagsby ran for office herself and  
22 became the first woman and the first African American to win a seat  
23 on the Tarrant County Commissioners Court; she served as  
24 commissioner for Precinct 1 until 2005, and during her 16-year

1 tenure, she was a champion for improving education and increasing  
2 the employment of women and minorities; she also expanded access to  
3 health care by working to open community clinics across the county,  
4 helped establish an immunization program, and guided grant money to  
5 women's shelters in Fort Worth and Arlington; and

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

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

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

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