

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 82

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life well lived may help to comfort
2 those saddened by the passing of Walter Yates Sr. on January 2,
3 2019, at the age of 78; and

4 WHEREAS, Walter Yates was born on July 6, 1940, in Shepherd to
5 Douglas and Girty Yates, and he grew up with eight siblings, Leola,
6 Ann, Guy, Harold, Samuel, Lee, David, and Gwen; when he was seven,
7 the family moved to Houston, where he later became a varsity
8 basketball player for Phillis Wheatley High School, helping the
9 team win three state championships; he went on to attend Pan
10 American College on a full athletic scholarship, and he played on
11 the college's 1963 NAIA championship team; and

12 WHEREAS, After graduating, Mr. Yates worked at Pan American
13 as an assistant coach until 1966, when he was hired to teach and
14 coach at E. O. Smith Junior High in Houston; two years later, he
15 helped integrate the Houston Independent School District by
16 becoming the first African American head coach at a predominantly
17 white school, Northside High, and he spent 17 years there; he went
18 on to take the head coaching job at Madison High in 1985, and he
19 returned to the Fifth Ward in 1996 to teach and coach at Kashmere
20 High School, remaining a member of the faculty until his retirement
21 in 2007; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the course of his 42-year career, Coach Yates
23 won an impressive total of 997 games, but he took his greatest
24 satisfaction from serving as a mentor and father figure to his

1 athletes; he was also a man of profound religious faith, attending
2 Yale Street Baptist Church since 1976 and serving as a deacon for
3 more than 30 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Yates shared a loving relationship with his
5 wife, Mary Louise Yates, that spanned 54 years, and he was the proud
6 father of three children, Alisa Yates Boutte, Walter Yates Jr., and
7 his adopted son, Calvin Rice Sr.; later in life, he saw his family
8 grow to include eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and an inspiring educator and
11 coach, Walter Yates lived a rich and purposeful life, and he will
12 forever be remembered with deep affection by all those who had the
13 good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Walter Yates Sr. and
16 extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and his many friends; and,
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Walter
21 Yates Sr.