

By: Collier

H.R. No. 985

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 passing of former Tuskegee Airman and longtime educator Robert
3 T. McDaniel of Fort Worth on March 19, 2019, at the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Tennerson McDaniel was born in Mertens on
5 February 28, 1923, to Alfred and Molly McDaniel, and he grew up with
6 two sisters, Gladys and Carrie; following his graduation as
7 valedictorian and president of the Class of 1940 at I. M. Terrell
8 High School in Fort Worth, he enrolled at Prairie View State Normal
9 and Industrial College on a scholarship; and

10 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. McDaniel was drafted into
11 the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943 and trained as a bombardier and
12 pilot in Alabama as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen; he rose to the
13 rank of second lieutenant, and while stationed at Freeman Field in
14 Indiana, he was one of the black officers who protested racial
15 inequity by repeatedly attempting to enter a segregated officers'
16 club; threatened with court martial, the men were later exonerated,
17 and their courageous actions helped lead to the integration of the
18 military; and

19 WHEREAS, After concluding his service in the armed forces,
20 Mr. McDaniel returned to the Prairie View A&M campus, where he
21 earned bachelor's and master's degrees, and he also held a
22 counselor's certification from the University of Colorado Boulder;
23 in the course of his tenure with the Fort Worth Independent School
24 District, he worked as a mathematics teacher, counselor, and

1 volunteer coach and served as vice principal at Dunbar
2 Junior-Senior High School and as principal at James E. Guinn and
3 Morningside Middle Schools; in 2009, he was inducted into the
4 district's Wall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. McDaniel shared a rewarding marriage with
6 Hester Randle McDaniel that spanned 55 years before she passed
7 away, and he was the proud father of a son, Robert Mennefee; later
8 in life, he was blessed with three grandchildren, Keisha, Ashlee,
9 and Robert, five great-grandchildren, Taylor, Dennis, Morgan,
10 Jordan, and Jerrod, and a great-great-grandson, Steven; a man of
11 strong religious faith, he was a member of St. Peter Presbyterian
12 Church; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen,
14 Mr. McDaniel received an honorary doctorate from Tuskegee
15 University in 2006, and the following year, he and his fellow airmen
16 received the Congressional Gold Medal of Freedom from President
17 George W. Bush; in January 2009, he was invited to attend the
18 inauguration of President Barack Obama; and

19 WHEREAS, A pioneer who helped break down racial barriers in
20 the armed forces, Robert McDaniel also distinguished himself as an
21 influential teacher and administrator, and his life and
22 achievements will forever remain a source of inspiration to all who
23 knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Robert T. McDaniel
26 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends; and, be it
27 further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Robert
4 T. McDaniel.