

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.R. No. 1269

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of former state representative Ruth
2 Jones McClendon of San Antonio on December 19, 2017, at the age of
3 74, brought a great loss to the people of Texas, whom she so
4 commendably served over the course of her remarkable career in
5 public life; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on October 5, 1943, Ms. McClendon
7 attended Texas Southern University and went on to earn a master's
8 degree from Webster University in Missouri; before entering
9 politics, she worked for 17 years as a juvenile probation officer;
10 she was later elected to the San Antonio City Council and served
11 from 1993 until 1996, when she won a seat in the state legislature
12 as the representative for House District 120 in East San Antonio, a
13 seat she held for the next two decades; and

14 WHEREAS, A dynamic, tenacious legislator, Ruth McClendon won
15 not only the high regard but also the genuine affection of members
16 on both sides of the aisle for her unfailing integrity, her joyous
17 spirit, and her ability to never make a hard-fought struggle
18 personal; intently focused on serving her constituents and the
19 people of Texas, she worked assiduously to build consensus and
20 advance measures for the common good; and

21 WHEREAS, In particular, Representative McClendon was a
22 staunch advocate for education, for children's programs, and for
23 laws protecting the elderly and the infirm; she also authored
24 legislation approved by the 84th Legislature that established a

1 commission to study wrongful convictions in the Texas criminal
2 justice system; possessed of a keen business sense, she
3 additionally sought to strengthen the state's transportation
4 infrastructure; in 2005, she proposed a constitutional amendment,
5 subsequently approved by voters, to dedicate a fund for rail
6 relocation and improvement, and in every legislature thereafter,
7 she filed bills to create a consistent means for financing such
8 work; during her lengthy tenure in the house, Ms. McClendon served
9 as a senior member of the Transportation and Appropriations
10 Committees and as chair of budget and oversight for agencies under
11 the jurisdiction of the Pensions and Investments Committee; she
12 also chaired the Rules and Resolutions Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, Along with other causes that were dear to her heart,
14 helping young people learn about the political system that impacted
15 their daily lives became a focus of her attention, leading her to
16 establish the McClendon Legislative Scholars Program through a
17 partnership with The University of Texas at San Antonio; this
18 accomplished lawmaker received a Lifetime Achievement Award from
19 Capitol Inside and was named by *Texas Monthly* to its list of the 10
20 Best Legislators in 2015; in 2016, in recognition of her efforts,
21 the Ruth Jones McClendon Learning Academy, a charter campus for
22 middle school students, opened in San Antonio; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative McClendon balanced the
24 responsibilities of her office with the rewarding family life she
25 shared with her husband, Denver McClendon, her children, Thaddies
26 and Vanessa, and her stepchildren, Mark, Angela, and Meredith; she
27 considered motherhood to be one of her proudest achievements and

1 greatest joys, and in her later years, she had the pleasure of
2 seeing her family grow to include 11 grandchildren, Maliyah,
3 Elizabeth, Thaddies, Bomani, Reseun, Remi, Alade, Nicholas,
4 Preston, Sydney, and Lawrence; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Jones McClendon devoted a distinguished
6 legislative career to bettering the lives of her fellow Texans,
7 particularly those whose voices are seldom heard, and she will long
8 be remembered and revered for exemplifying the highest ideals of
9 public service; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Ruth
12 Jones McClendon and extend deepest sympathy to her loved ones, to
13 her many friends, and to all those who mourn her passing; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
18 Honorable Ruth Jones McClendon.