

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Two remarkable sisters, Wilhelm Williams Moye of
2 Cedar Lake and Tena Williams Simien of Sweeny, have earned great
3 distinction through their combined eight decades as teachers in
4 Matagorda and Brazoria Counties; and

5 WHEREAS, Recognized as two of the oldest living former
6 teachers in the nation, Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien are the last
7 surviving members of a prominent family of educators, and they were
8 on the front lines of desegregation in the 1960s; their father, Joel
9 Williams Sr., was a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, and he
10 served for nearly 50 years as principal, teacher, and bus driver for
11 the Van Vleck Independent School District; their siblings, the late
12 Joel Williams Jr., Girtha Woodard, Augustus Williams Sr., and Fay
13 Woodard, were all teachers as well; and

14 WHEREAS, Born in 1922, Wilhelm Moye is a graduate of Prairie
15 View A&M University, and she began her career in the 1940s at
16 Sargent Colored School; she went on to teach typing, shorthand,
17 bookkeeping, and business math at O. H. Herman High School in the
18 Van Vleck ISD, and in 1965, she became the first African American
19 teacher at Van Vleck High School; she retired in the late 1980s; and

20 WHEREAS, Tena Simien, who was born in 1924, graduated from
21 Jarvis Christian College, and she began her career at Jerusalem
22 Community School in the 1940s; she later taught English at George
23 Washington Carver High School, where she was a supervisor, program
24 director, and sponsor of the drama club; in 1966, she was one of the

1 first six black teachers to be hired at Sweeny Junior High School in
2 the Sweeny ISD; she taught junior high school English until her
3 retirement in 1984; and

4 WHEREAS, Known affectionately as the Queen BEES (for Business
5 and English Education Sisters), Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien count
6 many community leaders among their former students, including a
7 school superintendent and a mayor, as well as school board members,
8 coaches, professional football players, city managers, city
9 council members, and bank executives; and

10 WHEREAS, Leaders in their profession, Wilhelm Moye and Tena
11 Simien have made a positive difference in the lives of generations
12 of area Texans, and they have earned the admiration and affection of
13 all who are privileged to know them; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commend Wilhelm Williams Moye and Tena Williams
16 Simien for their outstanding careers in education and extend to
17 them sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
20 for Mrs. Moye and Mrs. Simien as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.

Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 1560

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1560 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House