

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 1560

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.