

By: Thierry

H.R. No. 1648

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Bessie M. Swindle on March 28, 2019,
2 at the age of 79, concluded a remarkable life of service to
3 Southeast Houston; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Loreauville, Louisiana, Bessie Swindle
5 moved to Houston in the 1950s and settled in the Sunnyside
6 neighborhood; she founded the Cloverland Civic Club and as its
7 president, she represented 400 homeowners and worked tirelessly to
8 improve the lives of her neighbors, offering aid to families in need
9 and raising money for scholarships; in 1994, she became president
10 of the Southeast Coalition of Civic Clubs, and after acting as
11 community liaison for the Precinct 7 constable, she went on to serve
12 as outreach coordinator for Congressman Al Green; she was also a
13 member of the City of Houston's Police Officers' Civil Service
14 Commission and the mayor's Tower Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Swindle's dedicated activism helped bring
16 Sunnyside a library, a police storefront, and an extensive
17 renovation of Cloverland Park; a powerful advocate for
18 environmental justice, she organized 2,000 residents in opposition
19 to a concrete plant in 2002, and she continued to fight the threat
20 of pollution into the present decade; she championed numerous
21 worthwhile initiatives, among them a 2006 study of racial
22 disparities in the placement of children in child protective
23 services custody; a woman of faith, she was an active member of
24 St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church; in 2007, the City of Houston

1 celebrated Bessie M. Swindle Day and Partnership of Service Day in
2 her honor, and two years later, it renamed a popular facility the
3 Bessie Swindle Community Center; she received myriad other
4 accolades through the years, including the Mayor's Award for
5 Outstanding Volunteer Service and an honorary degree from the
6 Houston Community College System; and

7 WHEREAS, Through her selfless devotion to the betterment of
8 her community, Bessie Swindle made a meaningful difference in
9 countless lives, and her contributions will continue to resonate in
10 the years to come; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bessie M. Swindle
13 and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be
14 it 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 Bessie M.
18 Swindle.