

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1848

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Admired educator William Hayes Cotton of Dallas
2 County passed away on May 9, 2019, at the age of 85; and

3 WHEREAS, Born in Hammond on January 1, 1934, William Cotton
4 attended the Hammond Colored School until his family moved to
5 Dallas; he graduated from Lincoln High School and went on to
6 complete his bachelor's degree in political science, history, and
7 elementary education at Prairie View A&M University; later he
8 earned a master's degree from North Texas State University and
9 entered its doctoral program; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Cotton taught science in Bryan for two years and
11 joined the Dallas Independent School District in 1957; after
12 teaching at Colonial Elementary School, he served as principal of
13 L. B. Lamar School and then Benjamin Banneker High; in 1967 he
14 became the first African American administrator assigned to a
15 predominantly Anglo school in the district as assistant principal
16 of South Oak Cliff High, and two years later he was named principal;
17 he became the district's first African American operations director
18 in 1971, and he eventually served for 25 years as associate
19 superintendent for management services before his retirement in
20 2000; and

21 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to education, Mr. Cotton served as
22 the first African American president of the Dallas School
23 Administrators Association; he was a founding treasurer of the
24 Dallas Regional-National Alliance of Black School Educators and

1 secretary of the Credit Union of Texas; among the numerous
2 accolades he received were an honorary doctor of letters degree
3 from Texas College, the Dallas Urban League Yvonne A. Ewell
4 Excellence in Education Award, and the Texas Legislative Black
5 Caucus Education Award; he further contributed to his community as
6 a member of the Dallas Urban League, the NAACP, and Cedar Crest CME
7 Church; and

8 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Cotton enjoyed the love
9 and support of his wife, Imogene, and their children, Fleta,
10 Moncita, Kamalia, and William, and he took great pride in his
11 grandchildren, Regina, Courtney, Moriah, Caitlyn, and Cathryn and
12 great-grandchildren, Kristopher, Ari, and Royal; and

13 WHEREAS, While the death of William Cotton brings great
14 sadness to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that
15 will long be treasured by all those who held him dear; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Hayes
19 Cotton and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William
24 Cotton.