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By:  Craddick H.C.R. No. 102

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, For more than half a century, James Fuller has dedicated himself to the advancement of education and civil rights in West Texas through his work as an educator, administrator, and member of the Midland school board; and

WHEREAS, A native of San Angelo, Mr. Fuller received his early education in segregated schools, and after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he earned an associate's degree from San Angelo College, a bachelor's degree from North Texas State University, and a master's degree from Texas Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary 52-year career, Mr. Fuller has been a champion for equality of opportunity and fair access to education; he taught for the Lubbock Independent School District and for Midland College, where he was an English professor for more than four decades; he also served the college as coordinator of the Professional Development and Teaching and Learning Center, director of the Campus Writing Lab, and assistant director of Developmental Studies; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. Fuller was elected to the board of trustees of Midland ISD, and he served for 33 years, becoming the longest-tenured Black elected official in the city's history; he has been active as well with the Federation of Citizens United to Serve, Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Midland, the Midland African American Roots Historical/Cultural Arts Council, the Midland African American Chamber of Entrepreneurs, and the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuller's numerous awards include the Good Samaritan Award for Outstanding Community Service, an honorary life membership in the National PTA, the Community Service Award of the Midland chapter of the Links, Inc., the Premier Citizen Award from the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Midland, and the Community Service Award from the Midland branch of the NAACP, among others; and

WHEREAS, A certified lay preacher, Mr. Fuller has been the pastor of the Visionary Hollowell United Methodist Church, a delegate to the UMC Northwest Texas Annual Conference, and an officer of St. Mark's United Methodist Church; throughout his life, he has worked alongside his wife of nearly 60 years, Robbyne Hocker Fuller, Midland's first licensed Black real estate agent, and together they have championed African American art, culture, and business; and

WHEREAS, James Fuller's dedication, drive, and passion for justice have earned him the lasting respect and admiration of the citizens of Midland, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his outstanding record of achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commend James Fuller for his decades of service to the city of Midland and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Fuller as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.