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By:  Dutton H.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Family and friends were deeply saddened by the passing of admired vocalist Shirley Baines of Houston on January 15, 2021, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Born in Houston on March 9, 1951, Shirley Baines grew up in the historic Fifth Ward and graduated from Phillis Wheatley High School; she went on to earn her bachelor's degree in music education at Texas Southern University and studied vocal techniques under noted private instructors, at the University of Arizona, and through the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, the Merola Opera Program of the San Francisco Opera Company, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Austria; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baines toured the country with Broadway companies and performed in Europe and Asia as well; her soprano repertoire ranged from classical music to art songs and spirituals, and she loved to promote the works of African American composers; among numerous accolades, she received the national Dealy Award in the vocal category, as well as the top National Soloist Bureau Award of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to her profession, Ms. Baines maintained a number of affiliations, among them the Houston Metropolitan Chorale, the American Guild of Musical Artists, and the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music; she was also a lifelong member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in the Fifth Ward; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Baines brought joy to countless people through her musical gifts, and although she will be greatly missed by those she left behind, she will forever hold a special place in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Shirley Baines and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her loved ones and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Shirley Baines.