H.R. No. 278

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The citizens of DeSoto have lost a true civic leader with the death of their mayor, the Honorable Curtistene Smith McCowan, on October 28, 2020, at the age of 72; and

WHEREAS, The former Curtistene Smith was born in Jefferson to Riley and Blanche Smith on February 25, 1948; she enjoyed the love and support of her husband of 53 years, Leon McCowan, and she was the proud mother of two sons, Danny and Leon; later in life, she was blessed with three grandchildren, Tiana, Kirsten, and Taylor; she held a bachelor's degree in business administration from Dallas Baptist University, and she worked for the Federal Trade Commission for 32 years until her retirement in 2005; and

WHEREAS, A pioneering public servant, Ms. McCowan was the first African American to win public office in DeSoto when she was elected to the school board in 1990, and in 2012, she was elected to the city council; four years later, she became the first woman to be elected mayor of DeSoto, winning reelection in 2019; moreover, she was elected charter president of the DeSoto ISD Education Foundation board in 2000, and she also held a seat on the board of the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, serving terms as vice president and president; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McCowan was a board member of such entities as the Methodist Charlton Medical Center, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Regional Transportation Council, and the African American Education Archives and History Program, and she served for more than seven years on the Texas Southern University Board of Regents; she was also a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a longtime congregant of Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; in 2007, a DeSoto middle school was named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to her family and her community, Curtistene McCowan made a meaningful difference in the lives of her loved ones and fellow citizens alike, and her contributions will be fondly remembered for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Curtistene Smith McCowan and extend sincere condolences to her relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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

Sherman, Sr.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 278 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 18, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House