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By:  J. Johnson of Harris H.R. No. 1230

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School and the High School for Engineering Professions in Houston dedicated the campus auditorium in honor of State Representative Senfronia Thompson on April 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Washington High Class of 1957, Representative Thompson was also recognized as the first supporter of the school's new "The Vision" Community Statue Project; the student-led initiative is raising money for a plaza on campus with a statue of the school's namesake as its centerpiece; and

WHEREAS, Representative Thompson, the dean of the Texas House, is both the longest-serving woman and longest-serving African American in the legislature; first elected in 1972, she has worked tirelessly in behalf of the most vulnerable; she has crafted groundbreaking legislation to combat human trafficking, and she is the author of the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, the Chief Justice Jack Pope Act, which increases access to legal aid for low-income Texans with civil cases, and the Michael Morton Act, promoting greater fairness in the criminal justice system; in addition, she has secured passage of a host of other laws benefiting women, children, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Currently chair of the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee, Representative Thompson also serves on the Redistricting and the Business and Industry Committees; she has served the house in numerous leadership roles through the years, including chair of the Public Health, Judicial Affairs, and Local and Consent Calendars Committees and co-chair of the Human Trafficking Committee; and

WHEREAS, Among myriad accolades, Representative Thompson has received the Rosa Parks Award from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, and she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 2014; in addition, she has been named one of the Top Ten Best Legislators by *Texas Monthly*; she graduated from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and holds a master of law degree in international law from the University of Houston as well; and

WHEREAS, Senfronia Thompson has made a positive difference in the lives of countless Texans over the course of her remarkable legislative career, and the auditorium that bears her name will serve as a lasting reminder to Washington High students of the tremendous good that one person can accomplish; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Senfronia Thompson on the dedication of the auditorium at Booker T. Washington High School and the High School for Engineering Professions in her honor and extend to her sincere appreciation for her many contributions to the state; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Representative Thompson as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.