By: Cole, Rose, Turner of Tarrant, et al. H.C.R. No. 5

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

- 1 WHEREAS, A towering figure in the Texas Legislature and the
- 2 United States Congress, Houston native Barbara Jordan blazed a
- remarkable trail on the national stage for other women and people of 3
- 4 color; and
- WHEREAS, Barbara Charline Jordan was born in 1936 and 5
- graduated from Texas Southern University and Boston University 6
- 7 School of Law; in 1966, she became the first African American woman
- 8 elected to the Texas Senate, and she pushed through bills
- 9 establishing antidiscrimination clauses in business contracts, the
- Texas Fair Employment Practices Commission, and the state's first 10
- minimum wage law; recognizing her wisdom and skill, her peers chose 11
- 12 her as president pro tempore; and
- WHEREAS, Barbara Jordan continued her work to advance social 13
- 14 progress after winning election to the U.S. House
- Representatives in 1972, when she became the first African American 15
- 16 woman from the Deep South to be elected to Congress; as a member of
- the Judiciary Committee, she galvanized the nation during the 17
- Watergate hearings, signaling the historic weight 18 of the
- proceedings as she thundered, "My faith in the Constitution is 19
- 20 whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be
- 21 idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the
- destruction of the Constitution"; and 22
- 23 WHEREAS, Following her third term in the house, Congresswoman
- Jordan retired from politics to take up the Lyndon Johnson Chair in 2.4

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- 1 National Policy at The University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of
- 2 Public Affairs; she inspired the next generation of leaders by
- 3 teaching courses on intergovernmental relations, political values,
- 4 and ethics, and she served as ethics advisor to then-governor Ann
- 5 Richards; appointed chair of the U.S. Commission on Immigration
- 6 Reform, she again emerged as a key supporter of the framers' intent
- 7 in 1994 when she powerfully decried a proposal to end the
- 8 constitutional provision of birthright citizenship; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Barbara Jordan passed away in 1996, but the
- 10 magisterial voice she lifted as a champion of the vulnerable and
- 11 disenfranchised and as a defender of the constitution continues to
- 12 resonate, and naming a new building in the Capitol Complex in her
- 13 honor would provide a fitting tribute to her enormous legacy; now,
- 14 therefore, be it
- 15 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 16 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to name the building
- 17 being constructed on the east side of North Congress Avenue between
- 18 16th and 17th Streets the Barbara Jordan Building in recognition of
- 19 her contributions to our state and nation; and, be it further
- 20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
- 21 copy of this resolution to the chair and to the executive director
- 22 of the Texas Facilities Commission.