

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.R. No. 278

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Ms. McCowan was a board member of such entities as
22 the Methodist Charlton Medical Center, the North Central Texas
23 Council of Governments, the Regional Transportation Council, and
24 the African American Education Archives and History Program, and

1 she served for more than seven years on the Texas Southern
2 University Board of Regents; she was also a Golden Life Member of
3 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a longtime congregant of
4 Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; in 2007, a
5 DeSoto middle school was named in her honor; and

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

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

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