

By: Turner of Dallas

H.R. No. 404

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are experiencing great sadness
2 with the passing of community leader Curtis James Smith of Dallas,
3 who died on July 30, 2020, at the age of 95; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Roy and Arbella Smith on January 18, 1925,
5 Curtis Smith grew up in Longview with three siblings, Roy, Nina, and
6 Ola; a U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II, Mr. Smith was the first
7 African American promoted to seaman first class; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith wed Kelcy Mae Williams in 1947, and the
9 couple shared an extraordinary and loving marriage that spanned 73
10 years, a love story that signifies a lifetime of dedication and
11 commitment to one another and to their family; they were blessed
12 with two daughters, Curtis Marie and Melbra, and their family later
13 grew to include four grandchildren, Kristia, Christopher, Gerald,
14 and Curtis, and 10 great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith enjoyed a 32-year career as a Sky Chief
16 manager with Braniff Airways; he went on to work as a Sky Chief
17 manager at American Airlines for 11 years before retiring; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were some of the earliest
19 residents of the Hamilton Park community; Mr. Smith founded the
20 Hamilton Park Interorganizational Council and played a pivotal role
21 in desegregation; he was instrumental in establishing policies and
22 educational rights for African Americans within the Richardson
23 Independent School District and Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet
24 School, and he was appointed by a federal judge as the first chair

1 and organizer of the Richardson ISD Bi-Racial Committee following
2 the *Brown v. Board of Education* supreme court case; he was also a
3 precinct chair and a founding member of the Hamilton Park Civic
4 League; he was honored at the Hamilton Park High School 2010
5 reunion, and he and his wife were named as a Dallas County Power
6 Couple; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a leading member of Hamilton Park
8 United Methodist Church, where he served as chair of the
9 state-licensed child care center and as a member of the Board of
10 Trustees Finance Committee and the United Methodist Men of The Park
11 ministry; in recognition of his leadership, the church's library
12 was named in his honor; and

13 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his family and his community,
14 Curtis Smith made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless
15 fellow citizens, and his contributions and impact will be
16 remembered with admiration for years to come; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Curtis James Smith
19 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family, his
20 friends, and his many supporters; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Curtis
24 Smith.