

By: Davis

H.R. No. 1049

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life lived with joy and purpose drew to a close  
2 with the passing of Opal M. Allen of San Angelo on March 17, 2020;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The eldest of 15 children, the former Opal Bennett  
5 was born in Limestone County to Vera and Willie Bennett; she learned  
6 the importance of hard work at an early age and put her studies on  
7 hold to help support her family; in June 1957, she wed Norvell  
8 Allen, with whom she shared 55 rewarding years of marriage; the  
9 couple were blessed with two daughters, Robbin and Alma, and their  
10 family later grew to include two grandchildren, Jasmine and Justin,  
11 and three great-grandchildren, Camryn, Madison, and Alexia; and

12           WHEREAS, Mrs. Allen never lost sight of her dream to become  
13 an educator; she worked and attended night school to earn her GED,  
14 and in 1970, she received a bachelor's degree in history from Paul  
15 Quinn College in Waco; the following year, her family moved to San  
16 Angelo, and she took a job teaching history at Central High School,  
17 where she was one of the first African American members of the  
18 faculty; she enjoyed a career spanning 26 years at the campus, and  
19 she continued her own studies by earning a master's degree in  
20 education from Angelo State University in 1982; and

21           WHEREAS, A woman of devout faith, Mrs. Allen was an active  
22 congregant at her church, serving in such roles as Sunday school  
23 teacher, finance committee member, choir member, and first lady  
24 alongside her husband during his time in the ministry; many

1 organizations also benefited from her involvement, including Le  
2 Coterie Society of San Angelo, the Ministers' Wives Alliance of San  
3 Angelo, the Pregnancy Help Center of Concho Valley, and the Delta  
4 Kappa Gamma Society International; and

5 WHEREAS, Opal Allen dedicated her life to her faith, her  
6 family, and her students, and all those who loved and cherished her  
7 will forever find inspiration in their memories of her strength,  
8 generosity, and wisdom; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Opal M. Allen and  
11 extend heartfelt sympathy to her relatives and friends; and, be it  
12 further

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