

By: J. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 1230

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Currently chair of the Licensing and Administrative
22 Procedures Committee, Representative Thompson also serves on the
23 Redistricting and the Business and Industry Committees; she has
24 served the house in numerous leadership roles through the years,

1 including chair of the Public Health, Judicial Affairs, and Local
2 and Consent Calendars Committees and co-chair of the Human
3 Trafficking Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, Among myriad accolades, Representative Thompson has
5 received the Rosa Parks Award from the Texas Legislative Black
6 Caucus, and she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in
7 2014; in addition, she has been named one of the Top Ten Best
8 Legislators by *Texas Monthly*; she graduated from the Thurgood
9 Marshall School of Law and holds a master of law degree in
10 international law from the University of Houston as well; and

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

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

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