

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

In Memory
of
Mary Lou Bunkley Kirven

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Mary Lou Bunkley Kirven, a cherished Dallas resident, who died January 13, 2021, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, Mary Lou Bunkley was born in Denison, and she graduated from Terrell High School at the age of 16; a determined young woman, she went on to make notable contributions to the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, and she broke barriers with a trailblazing career as an educator; and

WHEREAS, Mary earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University; she served as a classroom teacher, a curriculum writer, and a reading specialist during her 32-year career in education, and she was the first African American teacher to be hired at Brandenburg Elementary School in Irving, Texas; and

WHEREAS, A devoted matriarch, Mrs. Kirven shared 38 years of marriage with the late Howard D. Kirven, and they were blessed with two children, Cynthia Kirven Arterbery and the late Beverly Kirven Smith; her three grandchildren, Stephanie, Steven, and Brent, enriched her life immeasurably; and

WHEREAS, Mary Kirven was a proud life member of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and in 2012, the sorority honored her for her work with the civil rights movement; she was a talented bridge player, an esteemed citizen, and a treasured community leader, and she

will long be remembered with respect and admiration by all who were privileged to share in her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Mary Lou Bunkley Kirven; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mary Kirven.

West

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 26, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate