

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson, a trailblazing
2 physician, educator, and activist, passed away on October 15, 2010,
3 at the age of 84, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of achievement;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The only child of Millard and Guthrie Jefferson,
6 Mildred Fay Jefferson was born in Pittsburg and grew up in Carthage,
7 where her father served as a Methodist minister; she attended
8 public schools in East Texas and later graduated summa cum laude
9 from Texas College in Tyler, before enrolling at Tufts University
10 in Medford, Massachusetts, and earning her master's degree; setting
11 her sights on the medical field, she etched her name in history as
12 the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical
13 School in 1951; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Jefferson remained a groundbreaking figure in
15 her medical career, becoming the first woman employed as a general
16 surgeon at Boston Medical Center; she served as a professor at
17 Boston University's School of Medicine, and she had a career-long
18 interest in the relationship between medicine, ethics, and law, as
19 well as their wider social and public policy implications; she
20 further made a name for herself as the first woman ever admitted
21 into the Boston Surgical Society; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Dr. Jefferson aligned herself with the
23 right-to-life movement; after serving on the board of governors of
24 the Value of Life Committee, she formed the Massachusetts Citizens

1 for Life in 1972, and her organization eventually incorporated as a
2 state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee; in 1978,
3 she became the founding president of the Right to Life Crusade,
4 Inc.; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Jefferson's steadfast dedication to the cause
6 led her to campaign for candidates at the local, state, and national
7 levels who shared her views, and she appeared in television
8 advertisements for pro-life presidential candidate Ellen McCormack
9 in 1976; over the years, Dr. Jefferson served on the boards of more
10 than 30 different groups opposing abortion, euthanasia, human
11 cloning, and embryonic stem cell research, and she was affiliated
12 with both Black Americans for Life and Feminists for Life; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Mildred Jefferson distinguished herself as an
14 eloquent and fearless voice for the pro-life movement, and through
15 her unshakeable resolve to make a difference, she set an inspiring
16 example that continues to endure to this day; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd
18 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life and legacy of
19 Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do
21 so in memory of Dr. Jefferson.