

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 106

In Memory
of
Sheila Jackson Lee

WHEREAS, Residents of Houston lost a political icon and fierce champion of social justice with the passing of U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee on July 19, 2024, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Ezra Jackson and Ivalita Bennett Jackson, the former Sheila Jackson was born in New York City on January 12, 1950, and grew up in the borough of Queens; she earned a bachelor's degree in political science as a member of Yale University's first coed class and went on to complete her law degree at the University of Virginia; following her marriage to Elwyn Lee, a Houston native, she became the proud mother of two children, Jason and Erica; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Congresswoman Jackson Lee moved to the Bayou City with her husband and began working for the Fulbright & Jaworski law firm; appointed as a municipal judge in 1987, she later became a highly effective member of the city council; she won her first congressional race in 1994 and was reelected 14 times, never with less than 70 percent of the vote; known for her formidable work ethic, she filed scores of bills addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, and she did not hesitate to work across the aisle to pass them; after the Violence Against Women Act expired in 2019, she fought for its reenactment and authored the legislation that achieved that goal; she was also the author and lead sponsor of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which established the first new federal holiday in nearly four decades; her many other major initiatives included the Sentencing Reform Act, Paycheck Fairness Act, and George Floyd Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act; known for her passionate speeches on the House floor, she advocated for gay rights long before mainstream acceptance of the movement and continued to serve as a powerful voice for progressive causes, including Black Lives Matter and gun control; she took her message to innumerable media outlets as well; most recently, she lent her support to a federal version of the CROWN Act to prevent discrimination based on hairstyles favored by people of color; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Jackson Lee held numerous leadership roles, including chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee for Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security and senior member of the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget Committees; she was the House Democrats' chief deputy whip, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Braintrust, co-chair of the Justice Reform Task Force, and a founder and chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus and the Congressional Children's Caucus; *Congressional Quarterly* ranked her among the 50 most effective members of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to her constituents, Congresswoman Jackson Lee was instrumental in directing billions of federal dollars to under-resourced communities; she helped her city recover from numerous natural disasters and other crises, even

personally directing traffic to a COVID-19 testing site at the height of the pandemic and unloading food and supplies for residents during the 2021 freeze; over the years, she appeared at countless local meetings and events, and she demonstrated deep compassion to those suffering loss, attending funerals, extending words of comfort, and connecting the bereaved with support services; and

WHEREAS, Sheila Jackson Lee was a fearless warrior in behalf of freedom, democracy, and positive change, and although she will be greatly missed, her exceptional contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Sheila Jackson Lee and extend sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her husband, Elwyn Lee; to her children, Jason and Erica Lee; to her grandchildren, Ellison Bennett Carter and Roy Lee Carter III; and to her other relatives, her many friends, and all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sheila Jackson Lee.

Miles

Alvarado	Eckhardt	Menéndez
Blanco	Gutierrez	West
Cook	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	Zaffirini
	Johnson	

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on February 25, 2025,
by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate