By: Cole H.R. No. 22

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The passing of Manor Independent School District trustee Dr. Mary Thomas on February 14, 2026, at the age of 71, has deeply saddened the family, friends, and colleagues of this dedicated civic leader and advocate for public education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas made a positive difference in the lives of many young Texans during her 48 years as an educator and administrator, which included work as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and central office administrator; a first-generation college student, she graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1975, and she later received a master's degree in special education and administration as well as a doctorate in education administration; she firmly believed in the transformative power of education, and she went on to set high expectations for her own two children; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Dr. Thomas supported school districts in Commerce, Austin, and Manor, where she applied her expertise to special education and gifted and talented programs; she also volunteered her time to advancing campus initiatives, and her commitment to students extended beyond the classroom through her work with Starr Consulting Firm and Greater Calvary Bible Church International; in addition, she served on the boards of the Austin Area Alliance of Black School Educators and the Association for Compensatory Educators of Texas; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Manor for more than two decades,

Dr. Thomas successfully ran for a seat on the Manor ISD Board of Trustees in 2022, and she later served in the role of vice president; she was admired by colleagues and community members alike for her principled and thoughtful approach to the board's work; in 2024, she had the distinction of being named Business Woman of the Year in Education by The Forttuna Group; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Thomas lived a rich and purposeful life, and she leaves behind a legacy of public service and advocacy that will continue to inspire all those who were privileged to know her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Mary Thomas and extend deepest sympathy to her family and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Mary Thomas.