By: Cole H.R. No. 23

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Austin are mourning the loss of Bernadette Miles Phifer, former director of the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center, who passed away on January 6, 2026, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of David and Hazel Miles, the former Bernadette Miles was born on July 12, 1948, and she grew up with six siblings, Laguria, Rapuel, Margaret, David, Robert, and Jane; she graduated from St. Jude Educational Institute in Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Phifer dedicated her career to the preservation of Black history and culture in Austin; over the course of more than a quarter century with the Carver Museum, she worked tirelessly to promote research, documentation, and analysis of African American experiences and contributions; as curator, she played a key role in the formation of the George Washington Carver Ambassadors to support the center's initiatives; her persuasive powers were instrumental in rescuing from an uncertain fate five Juneteenth memorial statues, which were installed outside the museum in time for the 150th anniversary of the holiday in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Through her skill in developing public programming, Ms. Phifer increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the city's Black heritage; she was a source of welcoming warmth and keen insight to museum visitors and a wonderful friend and mentor to the staff and volunteers of the center; a strong champion of

thoughtful preservation throughout the city, she served in such additional roles as a board member of the Texas Music Museum; and

WHEREAS, Bernadette Phifer enriched the lives of innumerable people by advancing the important mission of the Carver Museum, and she will be remembered with admiration and affection by all who were fortunate enough to know her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Bernadette Miles Phifer and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family: to her daughter, Dawnyale Phifer; to her siblings, David Miles and his wife, Yvonne, Robert Miles, and Jane Graddy and her husband, Sam; to her nephews, André, Jason, Joshua, Caleb, and Nathan; to her nieces, Wanda, Sallice, and Adriena; to her aunt, Ethel M. Burton; and to her many other relatives 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 Bernadette Phifer.