

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Port of Port Arthur commissioner Linda Turner Spears
2 has greatly benefited the citizens of Southeast Texas through her
3 exceptional record of civic engagement; and

4 WHEREAS, A veteran educator and Port Arthur native,
5 Commissioner Spears is currently secretary/treasurer of the port;
6 for two years, she served as president, becoming the first Black
7 commissioner to hold that office; she is the founder of Camp
8 Seaport, an educational program designed to introduce high school
9 students to careers in the maritime industry; in 2010, the camp was
10 honored by the American Association of Port Authorities for its
11 success; and

12 WHEREAS, Commissioner Spears graduated from Thomas Jefferson
13 High School in 1971 and attended Lamar University; she began her
14 rewarding career in education as a teacher's aide in Germany before
15 returning to Texas; for 17 years, she worked for the Port Arthur
16 Independent School District as an instructional aide in the special
17 education department; she then went on to earn her bachelor's and
18 master's degrees as well as an associate of applied science degree;
19 though she retired in 2015, she returned to the classroom three
20 years later, and today she teaches 11th-grade students at Woodrow
21 Wilson Early College High School; and

22 WHEREAS, Dedicated to her community, Commissioner Spears is a
23 founding member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Support Group of
24 Southeast Texas; a certified family life minister and a member of

H.R. No. 2360

1 Greater Grace Temple Church of God in Christ, she serves as an
2 evangelist missionary with the Texas Gulf Coast Ecclesiastical
3 Jurisdiction; moreover, she was employed for seven years as the
4 district coordinator for former state representative Joe Deshotel;
5 she and her husband, Joseph Spears, shared a rewarding relationship
6 until his passing in 2022; she is the proud mother of four children,
7 and her treasured family also includes 11 grandchildren and 4
8 great-grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, Linda Turner Spears has made a lasting, positive
10 difference in her community, and her outstanding accomplishments
11 have earned the admiration and appreciation of countless area
12 residents; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor Linda Turner Spears for her contributions
15 to Port Arthur and Southeast Texas and extend to her sincere best
16 wishes for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Commissioner Spears as an expression of high regard by
19 the Texas House of Representatives.

Manuel

H.R. No. 2360

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2360 was adopted by the House on May 29, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House