

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Gertrudejane Holliday Stone has earned the
2 admiration of many fellow citizens through the contributions she
3 has made as a civil rights icon and a pillar of the Houston
4 community; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Stone made history in December 1955, when she
6 refused to give up her seat to a White passenger on a public train,
7 unknowingly becoming part of the anti-segregation movement
8 initiated by Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, several days
9 earlier; although her brave and heroic act was not widely known
10 outside of Houston, she went on to be recognized during a visit to
11 the White House in 2020 and was also honored by *The Kelly Clarkson*
12 *Show* in 2021; and

13 WHEREAS, A graduate of Fisk University in Nashville,
14 Tennessee, Mrs. Stone was also a trailblazer in Pennsylvania, where
15 she worked as a department store salesperson at a time when it was
16 largely unheard of for a Black person to do so; she was later
17 employed as a teacher in the Houston Independent School District
18 for about a decade before her retirement; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the years, this inspiring woman has volunteered
20 with numerous organizations, such as the Harris County Heritage
21 Society and the St. Elizabeth Hospital of Houston Foundation, which
22 was founded by her husband, the late Dr. John S. Stone; she has
23 served on the advisory board of Alley Theatre, on the executive
24 board of the Houston Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and

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1 on various other boards and committees, in addition to providing
2 leadership as the first Black chair of the Houston Public Library
3 board and as cofounder of St. Mary's Catholic Church Federal Credit
4 Union; she was also instrumental in founding the National African
5 American Museum in Houston; and

6 WHEREAS, In acknowledgment of her volunteer work and her
7 significant contributions to the civil rights movement, Mrs. Stone
8 has received the Beautiful Activist Award from Brandeis University
9 and the title of Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
10 of Jerusalem, the highest honor bestowed upon a Catholic layperson
11 by papal invitation; and

12 WHEREAS, Gertrudejane Stone is a distinguished citizen who
13 has demonstrated remarkable courage in breaking down racial
14 barriers throughout her life, and her achievements are truly
15 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Gertrudejane Holliday Stone for her civic
18 leadership and activism and extend to her sincere best wishes for
19 the future; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Mrs. Stone as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.