

By: Stephenson

H.C.R. No. 9

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Wharton County Historical Commission is hosting  
2 the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker at the site of the  
3 Wharton Training School on November 6, 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, Established in 1896 as the Wharton Colored School,  
5 the institution was created to provide a high-quality education for  
6 local African American students at all grade levels; originally  
7 situated on Milam Street, the school received a grant in 1927 from  
8 the Rosenwald Fund to build a larger facility on the corner of  
9 Outlar Street and what is now Martin Luther King Boulevard; and

10 WHEREAS, Renamed the Negro Training School, the new building  
11 was destroyed by a fire in December 1936; classes were subsequently  
12 held in the livestock barns at the county fairgrounds until a new,  
13 seven-room structure was finished in 1937; by 1939, African  
14 American students from all over the county were attending the  
15 school, now rechristened the Wharton County Training School, and  
16 that same year, C. W. Dawson became principal, a position he would  
17 hold for nearly three decades; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1955, a new brick building with more classrooms  
19 and the school's first science labs was added, enabling the  
20 institution to offer a full curriculum that included advanced  
21 science, home economics, art, and music, and in 1962, the football  
22 team took the AA League state championship; over the years, the  
23 school served as a community center and the venue for numerous  
24 events; many graduates returned to the campus to work as teachers or

1 administrators, and since the facility's closure in 1968, the  
2 members of the Wharton Training High School Alumni and Ex-Students  
3 Association have continued to preserve the school's rich heritage;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the Wharton Training School  
6 contributed to the intellectual and social development of  
7 generations of African American students, and it is indeed fitting  
8 that its notable legacy in Wharton County be recognized; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
11 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the dedication of the Texas  
12 Historical Marker at the site of the Wharton Training School and  
13 extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for a  
14 meaningful and memorable event; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for the Wharton County Historical Commission as an  
17 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and  
18 Senate.