

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 186

WHEREAS, For more than four decades, every U.S. president has declared the annual observance of Education and Sharing Day in honor of the birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson and his contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, One of the most celebrated figures in 20th century Judaism, Rabbi Schneerson was born in Ukraine in 1902; he demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for religious scholarship at a young age, mastering the entire Talmud and many of its commentaries by the age of 17; in the 1920s, he became part of the inner circle of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Judaism, and he married the Rebbe's daughter, Chaya Mushka; forced to flee Berlin and later Paris because of Nazi anti-Semitism, the couple settled in New York City in 1941; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, Rabbi Schneerson officially succeeded his father-in-law as the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and over the next 44 years, he built the movement into a worldwide community of 200,000 members; a strong advocate for children and education, he believed that schools should stress both academic achievement and character building, and he established several thousand Orthodox Jewish schools and educational centers around the globe before his passing in 1994; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Rabbi Schneerson's advocacy, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first Education and Sharing Day in 1978, and the tradition has continued each year since; the rabbi's birthday is celebrated on 11 Nissan of the Jewish liturgical calendar, or four days before Passover, and in

2021 it falls on March 24; his accolades further include a Congressional Gold Medal, which he received posthumously in 1995; and

WHEREAS, In the midst of a global pandemic that has disrupted traditional models of education across the nation, Education and Sharing Day represents an important opportunity for Texans to reflect not just on how to foster academic achievement in young people but also on the core values that should be imparted to children and adults alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 24, 2021, as Education and Sharing Day.

Menéndez, Blanco

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 24, 2021.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate