

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 576

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units
2 are visiting the State Capitol on April 4, 2023, in celebration of
3 Texas NAACP Day; and

4 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the NAACP has played a
5 crucial role in the struggle for equal rights and justice; the
6 organization was founded in 1909 and grew rapidly as it set agendas
7 and developed tactics that would propel the civil rights movement
8 through the 20th century; early members of the group included
9 W. E. B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey, and
10 Ida B. Wells; and

11 WHEREAS, The NAACP has drawn its strength as a grassroots
12 organization from a membership based in hundreds of communities
13 across the nation, and its local branches have been key to its
14 effectiveness; in Texas, the first chapter was established in
15 El Paso in 1915, and four more cities in the state gained branches
16 three years later; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1937, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units
18 was established under the leadership of A. Maceo Smith, and the
19 organization gained traction as a sustained, statewide movement;
20 the conference expanded rapidly during and after World War II,
21 reaching a membership of almost 30,000 people in over 100 branches;
22 early victories included Supreme Court cases that ended Democratic
23 White primary elections and secured the admission of Heman M.
24 Sweatt to The University of Texas School of Law; public school

1 desegregation cases dragged on longer, tied up in the courts for
2 years while the NAACP confronted government retaliation; and

3 WHEREAS, Texas branches of the NAACP have continued to build
4 on the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Era; initiatives include
5 litigating redistricting cases and targeting discriminatory
6 practices in employment, housing, and the criminal justice system;
7 since 1991, that work has been guided by Gary Bledsoe, president of
8 the Texas NAACP; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than eight and a half decades, the Texas
10 State Conference of NAACP Units has advanced the cause of social
11 justice, and through their dedication as champions of equal rights,
12 members across the state are furthering the vital goals of this
13 trailblazing organization; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize April 4, 2023, as Texas NAACP Day at
16 the State Capitol and extend to the members of the Texas State
17 Conference of NAACP Units sincere best wishes for a memorable and
18 productive visit to Austin.