

By: Flores

H.R. No. 1280

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Alexander Farm in Austin's Pilot Knob community
2 recently celebrated its 175th anniversary; and

3 WHEREAS, One of the oldest farms in Travis County, the
4 Alexander Farm was founded in 1847 by Daniel Alexander, a renowned
5 horse breeder and trainer; he was still enslaved at the time by the
6 McKinney family, whose members transferred just over 73 acres to
7 him through a verbal contract, which was finalized at last more than
8 three decades later; possession of the property allowed
9 Mr. Alexander and his wife, Emeline, to keep their family together
10 and build a legacy; he continued to breed and train thoroughbreds
11 and quarter horses after emancipation; and

12 WHEREAS, Daniel Alexander's son, Milton Winston Alexander,
13 expanded operations by purchasing adjacent and nearby properties;
14 his son, Milton Everett Alexander, eventually bought out other
15 heirs in order to ensure the farm's continuation under family
16 ownership; transitioning to dairy farming, he prospered as supplier
17 for six different dairy companies; he and his son, Marcellus
18 Alexander Sr., maintained a variety of livestock; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Alexanders faced the same
20 threats from gentrification and eminent domain as other
21 African-American farmers; in 1968, the Texas Department of
22 Transportation seized five acres when it rerouted U.S. Highway 183,
23 cutting off the farm's original entrance and isolating a fertile
24 section on the other side of the freeway, which abuts the family

1 cemetery; while the sixth generation of Alexanders raises beef
2 cattle, rampant development and proposed highway construction
3 present new perils; ever resolute, the family has collaborated with
4 the Hill Country Conservancy to protect the land and partnered in
5 USDA initiatives that promote resiliency; the farm has been
6 recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land
7 Heritage program; and

8 WHEREAS, Black-owned farms are increasingly rare in the
9 United States, and Black history has too often been erased, but
10 through their careful stewardship, the Alexander family has
11 preserved and renewed a vital heritage; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the 175th anniversary of the
14 Alexander Farm and commend the members of the Alexander family for
15 their devotion to a priceless legacy; and, be it further

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