

By: Bowers

H.R. No. 1311

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has a rich cultural heritage, and
2 its cemeteries serve as a tangible link to its history; and

3 WHEREAS, As Texas has grown and become urbanized, some of the
4 state's cemeteries have been lost or forgotten, and their
5 accompanying grave markers, if they were ever placed, have decayed
6 or have gone missing; remembering and identifying these sites is
7 vital to understanding the lives and legacies of those interred in
8 them; and

9 WHEREAS, Across the state, there are a number of well-known
10 unmarked cemeteries, including the Freedmen's Cemetery in Dallas,
11 which served as a burial place for formerly enslaved people; there
12 are numerous other cemeteries that were used for the burial of
13 African Americans and Black Americans who lived under segregation,
14 including Horst Plantation Cemetery in Austin and Oakwood Cemetery
15 in Tyler; and

16 WHEREAS, Many cemeteries remain unknown and unmarked, making
17 it difficult to preserve them, and the observance of Unmarked
18 Cemetery Day on May 3, 2023, serves to raise awareness of the need
19 to identify and protect these important historical sites and to
20 honor the memories of those Texans whose final resting places have
21 been forgotten; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
23 Legislature hereby recognize May 3, 2023, as Unmarked Cemetery Day
24 and commend all those who are dedicated to the documentation and

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1 preservation of Texas's historic cemeteries.