

By: Blanco

S.R. No. 348

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than four decades, every U.S. president has
2 declared the annual observance of Education and Sharing Day in
3 honor of the anniversary of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson's
4 birth and his contributions to education; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, In recognition of Rabbi Schneerson's advocacy,
23 President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first Education and Sharing
24 Day in 1978, and the tradition has continued each year since; the

1 rabbi's birthday is celebrated on 11 Nissan of the Jewish
2 liturgical calendar, or four days before Passover, and in 2023 it
3 falls on April 2; his accolades further include a Congressional
4 Gold Medal, which he received posthumously in 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Rabbi Schneerson was a champion
6 for values-based learning, and Education and Sharing Day represents
7 an important opportunity for Texans to reflect not just on how to
8 foster academic achievement but also on how to ensure that young
9 people lead lives rich in purpose and fulfillment through service
10 and good works; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
12 hereby recognize April 2, 2023, as Education and Sharing Day.