

By: Ward Johnson

H.R. No. 476

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with
2 the death of Tanya Debose of Houston on January 30, 2025, at the age
3 of 58; and

4 WHEREAS, An advocate for preserving African American history
5 and culture, Tanya Debose was born on April 4, 1966, and she was
6 best known for her work in the Independence Heights neighborhood of
7 Houston; she had deep roots in the community, as her
8 great-grandfather was one of the early pioneers to purchase land in
9 what became the first African American municipality in Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Debose founded Preserving Communities of Color,
11 which focuses on protecting historic communities of color by
12 transforming them into inclusive cultural destinations; the
13 initiative consists of an annual conference bringing together
14 community advocates, civic leaders, scholars, and elected
15 officials, and it provides support to historic communities of
16 color, connecting them with tools and resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Debose participated in several national
18 initiatives, including the Historic Black Towns and Settlements
19 Alliance, where she spearheaded media campaigns aimed at raising
20 awareness of historic Black towns; in more recent years, Ms. Debose
21 coordinated a summit with the goal of building a national heritage
22 corridor across multiple states to connect leaders and promote
23 awareness of all-Black towns created after the Civil War; she made
24 efforts to create a statewide consortium of heritage councils with

1 the goal of fostering the preservation of African American history
2 and culture in the Lone Star State; and

3 WHEREAS, An engaged activist and an effective community
4 leader, Tanya Debose earned the lasting respect of all who were
5 privileged to know her, and she will forever be remembered with
6 great admiration and affection; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Tanya Debose and
9 extend heartfelt sympathy to her family and friends; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tanya
14 Debose.