

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 295

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former State Representative Nathan H. Haller was a
2 notable Texan whose passing on February 27, 1917, at the age of 76,
3 left a gap in Texas history to be bridged over a century later by the
4 echoes of his achievements and accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Born a slave on July 8, 1840, Mr. Haller moved with
6 his master to Walker County, Texas, at an early age, serving his
7 master until he was given his freedom on June 19, 1865; upon
8 receiving his freedom, Mr. Haller remained in Walker County as a
9 farmer and was elected county commissioner for a number of years;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In the late 1880s or early 1890s, Mr. Haller moved to
12 Brazoria County and was elected state representative to the 23rd
13 Legislature, and he also served in the 24th Legislature; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Haller was the only African-American Texas state
15 representative in 1893 during the 23rd Legislature; he served on
16 the Roads, Bridges, and Ferries Committee as well as the Labor
17 Committee; and

18 WHEREAS, During the 23rd Legislature, Mr. Haller introduced
19 House Bill 469, "to put in operation, and maintain a branch
20 university for the colored youth of Texas"; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1894, Mr. Haller ran for re-election and was
22 defeated due to a Brazoria county judge failing to count all votes,
23 which would have given Mr. Haller a 50-vote margin of victory; the
24 House Committee on Privileges & Elections ruled in favor of Mr.

1 Haller, which allowed him to become a member of the 24th
2 Legislature; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Haller retired from politics after his second
4 term; he moved to Houston, where he was working as a wagon driver in
5 1910; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Haller served as a voice for his district, an
7 instrument to education, and a shoulder to his people, and he is to
8 be commended and applauded for his courageousness, endurance,
9 loyalty, and, most notably, his bravery in overcoming conditions
10 many would not have challenged 30 years into their freedom; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of former State
14 Representative Nathan H. Haller; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the members of his family.