

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 556

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Family Land Heritage Program of the Texas
2 Department of Agriculture honors properties in Texas that have been
3 owned by the same family and agriculturally productive for more
4 than a century, and on March 21, 2003, James Morney's Farm, which is
5 today owned by Murdine Berry of Dallas, joins this distinguished
6 roster of Texas properties; and

7 WHEREAS, This historical property, which is located in
8 southern Dallas County, was purchased in 1876 by former slaves
9 James and Kathy Morney with several bales of cotton and six years of
10 savings; the couple reared their eight children on the farm, and the
11 family's standing in the community was reflected by the naming of a
12 local school in their honor; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the farm was illegally divided in 1932,
14 current owner Murdine Berry, a retired Dallas schoolteacher, spent
15 more than 25 years painstakingly researching old maps and records
16 and worked through the legal system to unify the lands that once
17 composed her great-grandfather's farm; and

18 WHEREAS, The role of the family farm in Texas history is both
19 significant and long-standing, and it is most appropriate that
20 James Morney and his descendants be honored for their enduring
21 contributions to agriculture in the Lone Star State; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
24 Legislature hereby congratulate Murdine Berry on the acceptance of

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1 James Morney's Farm into the Family Land Heritage Program of the
2 Texas Department of Agriculture; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Ms. Berry as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.