

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 782

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the St. Mary's Colony Association
2 Juneteenth Committee have done much to preserve the history of
3 their community, recognizing its significance to the rich heritage
4 of our state; and

5 WHEREAS, Established shortly after emancipation, St. Mary's
6 Colony was founded in Bastrop County by two former slave families;
7 this African American farming community once had a population of
8 more than 300, though most inhabitants moved from the colony to
9 pursue opportunities in the city of Austin after World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, many former residents travel back to St.
11 Mary's Colony to celebrate June 19 or "Juneteenth" as Emancipation
12 Day, for it was on that date in 1865 that African American slaves in
13 this state finally gained the freedom previously conferred by the
14 Emancipation Proclamation; and

15 WHEREAS, The St. Mary's Colony Association Juneteenth
16 Committee organizes an annual commemoration of this important
17 event, and the men and women who lend their time to this worthy
18 endeavor are: Alvesta Freeman, James Wilson, Clifton Bolden, Obrey
19 Smith, Dennis Franklin, Lee Porter, Robbie Landrum, Kenneth Smith,
20 James Doyle, Robert Smith, Rex Freeman, Leonard Smith, Edward
21 Doyle, James Freeman, Minnie Brown, Margie Butler, Sylvester
22 Prosser, Mattie Ates, Lawrence Prosser, A. C. Freeman, Edward
23 Freeman, and Earlee Freeman; and

24 WHEREAS, Juneteenth represents a pivotal moment in the

1 remarkable saga of the Lone Star State, and the St. Mary's Colony
2 Association Juneteenth Committee is to be congratulated for its
3 excellent work in organizing a day of remembrance, rejoicing, and
4 renewal of purpose; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend the efforts of the
7 St. Mary's Colony Association Juneteenth Committee and extend to
8 its members best wishes for a meaningful celebration; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for the committee as an expression of high regard by the
12 Texas House of Representatives.