

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Texas in recognizing April 29, 2006, as Selma to Montgomery Day; and

WHEREAS, The right to vote is the most fundamental right in a democracy and is the foundation upon which all other rights exist; and

WHEREAS, Before passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, African Americans were routinely denied this most basic of civil rights through such devices as poll taxes and literacy tests as well as through outright intimidation and violence; and

WHEREAS, In response to these injustices, a series of marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, were begun in early 1965; these included the infamous March 7 Bloody Sunday march, where 600 civil rights marchers were met with violence and bloodshed at the hands of Alabama state troopers and local citizens, who confronted them at the Edmund Pettus Bridge; and

WHEREAS, This watershed moment led to the historic four-day march to Montgomery led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which grew to include 25,000 marchers and concluded on March 25 on the steps of the Alabama Capitol with Dr. King's powerful "How Long, Not Long" speech; within five months of those extraordinary events, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, These accomplishments continue to inspire pro-democracy movements around the world; the bravery of these men and women set an example that still resonates today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to those civil rights pioneers who participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches, and urge all Texans to observe April 29, 2006, as Selma to Montgomery Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this historic occasion.

West

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2006.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate