

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, James Leonard Farmer, Jr., a native Texan, played a  
2 fundamental role in shaping and leading the modern civil rights  
3 movement in the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Marshall on January 12, 1920, Mr. Farmer  
5 lived in Austin from 1925 to 1930 while his father was serving as a  
6 professor and as registrar at Samuel Huston College; after  
7 graduating from Wiley College at the age of 18, he initially  
8 followed in the footsteps of his theologian father, earning a  
9 bachelor of divinity degree from Howard University in 1941; while  
10 studying at Howard, he developed a great appreciation for the work  
11 of Mahatma Gandhi; and

12           WHEREAS, James Farmer moved to Chicago in 1941 to join the  
13 Fellowship of Reconciliation as a secretary of race relations; the  
14 following year, he became the principal founder of a new civil  
15 rights organization, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); during  
16 his involvement with CORE, Mr. Farmer helped to pioneer the civil  
17 rights protest tactics that gained national attention in the 1950s  
18 and 1960s--nonviolent direct action, civil disobedience, and  
19 noncooperation with segregation; and

20           WHEREAS, After serving as program director for the NAACP from  
21 1959 to 1961, Mr. Farmer returned to CORE to become its national  
22 director; shortly thereafter he organized the first Freedom Ride, a  
23 protest action that ultimately led to the outlawing of segregated  
24 seating in interstate travel; and

1           WHEREAS, While overseeing the formation of more than 150 new  
2 CORE chapters, Mr. Farmer also played a key role in organizing the  
3 1963 March on Washington; at the same time, he led CORE in  
4 courageous efforts to register African American voters in southern  
5 states, a campaign that climaxed in Mississippi with the Freedom  
6 Summer project of 1964; and

7           WHEREAS, One of the preeminent leaders of the civil rights  
8 movement, James Farmer saw his labor and sacrifices, together with  
9 the efforts of thousands of other brave men and women, bear fruit in  
10 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;  
11 moreover, he used his access to Vice President and then President  
12 Lyndon Johnson to successfully promote the concept of affirmative  
13 action; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Farmer left CORE in 1966; from 1969 to 1970, he  
15 served in the administration of President Richard Nixon as an  
16 assistant secretary in the Department of Health, Education and  
17 Welfare; during his tenure at HEW he advocated the use of federal  
18 funds to strengthen historically black colleges and universities;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, In his continuing quest to heal racial divisions  
21 within the country, Mr. Farmer cofounded in 1975 the Fund for an  
22 Open Society, an organization to promote interracial housing; the  
23 author of two books, including an autobiography, he served as a  
24 Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies at Mary  
25 Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington, from  
26 1985 to 1998; among the numerous awards conferred on him during his  
27 lifetime were 26 honorary degrees and, in 1998, the Presidential

1 Medal of Freedom; and

2 WHEREAS, James Farmer died on July 9, 1999; in recognition of  
3 his towering role in the civil rights movement, Governor Rick  
4 Perry, Austin Mayor Will Wynn, and San Antonio Mayor Edward D. Garza  
5 declared January 12, 2005, as a special day to honor James Farmer;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, this notable American remained  
8 committed to the principle of nonviolence and to the ideal of a  
9 fully inclusive, integrated society, and in his unwavering devotion  
10 to that shining vision, he was instrumental in advancing the cause  
11 of social and economic justice for all the citizens of this land;  
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby pay tribute to the life of James Leonard Farmer, Jr., for his  
15 immeasurable contributions to the continuing expansion of human  
16 freedom.

Dukes  
Hughes  
Coleman  
Giddings  
McClendon

Craddick	Geren	Menendez
Allen of Harris	Giddings	Merritt
Allen of Dallas	Gonzales	Miller
Alonzo	Gonzalez Toureilles	Moreno of Harris
Anchia	Goodman	Moreno of El Paso
Anderson	Goolsby	Morrison
Bailey	Griggs	Mowery
Baxter	Grusendorf	Naishtat
Berman	Guillen	Nixon
Blake	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hamric	Olivo
Branch	Hardcastle	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Paxton
Burnam	Hegar	Pena
Callegari	Herrero	Phillips
Campbell	Hilderbran	Pickett
Casteel	Hill	Pitts
Castro	Hochberg	Puente
Chavez	Hodge	Quintanilla
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Coleman	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Ritter
Corte	Hughes	Rodriguez
Crabb	Hunter	Rose
Crownover	Hupp	Seaman
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	Jackson	Smith of Harris
Dawson	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Denny	Keel	Solomons
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Strama
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Straus
Dukes	King of Parker	Swinford
Dunnam	King of Zavala	Talton
Dutton	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Edwards	Krusee	Thompson
Eiland	Kuempel	Truitt
Eissler	Laney	Turner
Elkins	Laubenberg	Uresti
Escobar	Leibowitz	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Luna	Veasey
Farrar	Madden	Villarreal
Flores	Martinez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez Fischer	West
Frost	McCall	Wong
Gallego	McClendon	Woolley
Gattis	McReynolds	Zedler

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 47 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 28, 2005.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 47 was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2005, by a viva-voce vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor