

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 158

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, People from throughout Texas and beyond are  
2 celebrating the February 5, 2005, opening of the new George  
3 Washington Carver (GWC) Museum and Cultural Center; and

4           WHEREAS, The first neighborhood museum in Texas devoted to  
5 African American history and the only African American cultural  
6 center in Austin, the Carver has played an important role in the  
7 community for nearly 75 years; when the original historic building  
8 was moved to Kealing Park in 1933, it served as the Austin Public  
9 Library's first branch and the first library in town for African  
10 Americans; a larger facility was built to accommodate the needs of  
11 area library patrons in 1980, and the historic building was  
12 redesignated as a black history museum, but again the needs of the  
13 community outgrew the facilities, and plans were soon under way for  
14 a new museum and cultural center and a new addition to the GWC  
15 campus complex; and

16           WHEREAS, This 30,000-square-foot facility features an artist  
17 gallery, theater, dance studio, classroom, darkroom, orientation  
18 room, conference room, and gift shop; in addition to housing its  
19 impressive collection of books, photographs, manuscripts, maps,  
20 and other materials that document the history of African Americans,  
21 it will also present exhibitions that focus primarily on black  
22 history and culture; three permanent interactive exhibits include  
23 the first in the nation to document the historical significance and  
24 celebration of Juneteenth, as well as "Austin African American

1 Families," which promotes the importance of family history, and  
2 "Let's Pretend, Dr. Carver," a children's exhibition commemorating  
3 African American scientists and inventors; and

4 WHEREAS, A true Central Texas treasure, the George Washington  
5 Carver Museum and Cultural Center aims to increase awareness of our  
6 state's rich past, and its efforts to promote education will  
7 undoubtedly help to preserve the Lone Star State's history and  
8 culture for future generations; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the opening of the George Washington  
11 Carver Museum and Cultural Center and extend to all those  
12 associated with this venerable institution best wishes for success  
13 in this exciting new era for the museum and for the people of  
14 Austin; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for the museum as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
17 House of Representatives.