

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 2188

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the opening of the Tavis Smiley Center for
2 Professional Media Studies in February 2005, the Texas Southern
3 University public radio station and NPR affiliate KTSU of Houston
4 has secured its stature as one of the Bayou City's most vibrant and
5 influential media outlets; and

6 WHEREAS, Named in honor of the highly regarded radio and
7 television personality Tavis Smiley, the new center is an
8 18,000-square-foot showcase of state-of-the-art broadcasting
9 technology, including an announcer's studio, production studios, a
10 satellite studio, a recording studio, a retail store, and a
11 multipurpose classroom; and

12 WHEREAS, The establishment of the Tavis Smiley Center for
13 Professional Media Studies and the Tavis Smiley School of
14 Communications, which houses all TSU communications academic
15 programs, including journalism, speech communications,
16 telecommunications, and electronic media, is part of an effort by
17 the school to attract more minority students to the communications
18 field; university officials approached Mr. Smiley, who holds the
19 distinction of being the first person to host daily shows on both
20 PBS and NPR, with a proposal to name the school's new media
21 facilities after him; although the proposal was a
22 no-strings-attached initiative intended to honor Mr. Smiley's
23 contributions to the field and his stature as a role model for new
24 generations of emerging journalists and media professionals, the

1 popular talk show host responded with a \$1 million gift to TSU that
2 is being matched by the state; and

3 WHEREAS, From its humble beginnings more than three decades
4 ago as a 10-watt station whose signal barely covered a 10-mile
5 radius, KTSU has grown alongside its listenership, which is now the
6 largest African American audience and the third-largest jazz
7 audience of any public radio station in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, KTSU has served as an
9 eloquent vehicle of expression for TSU and the Houston community,
10 and its new facilities will ensure that this vital voice will be
11 heard with even greater strength and clarity; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate KTSU and Texas Southern University
14 on the opening of the Tavis Smiley Center for Professional Media
15 Studies and extend to all those associated with the center sincere
16 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for KTSU as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
19 of Representatives.