

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 707

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1938, Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, has rendered exceptional service to our nation's youth, and the Austin chapter has supported the aims of its parent organization in its dedication to the well-being of the children of the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, Jack and Jill was established to provide constructive educational, cultural, civic, recreational, and social activities and programs for African American youths; it was initiated by Marion Stubbs Thomas and a group of 20 like-minded mothers in Philadelphia who were seeking to encourage social and cultural relationships between their children; the idea soon spread to other cities and, by 1946, 10 Jack and Jill groups had been established and members had held their first national meeting; and

WHEREAS, The nonprofit organization has expanded to encompass seven regional offices and 240 chapters and is considered one of the premier service organizations in the country; in 1968, the Jack and Jill Foundation was created as a national service project with a mission to fund educational, literary, scientific, and charitable projects that help eliminate some of the obstacles confronting African Americans in our society; and

WHEREAS, Chartered in 1953, the Austin Jack and Jill chapter operates under the jurisdiction of the South Central regional office and works within the Austin community through various groups and chapter projects; recent activities have included a food drive collection for the Capital Area Food Bank, participation in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life Event, a nursing home visit, an esteem-building workshop, field trips to area museums, and ACT and SAT review sessions, as well as fishing, bowling, and swim parties; and

WHEREAS, The Austin chapter's main fund-raiser, the biennial Beautillion, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding young African American men in the community and presents these high school seniors and college freshmen much as a debutante ball presents young women; proceeds from the event are awarded in scholarships to the young men, or Beaux, as well as in donations to the United Negro College Fund, Brackenridge Children's Hospital, Austin Children's Museum Minority Scholarship Fund, Faith Home, George Washington Carver Library, and Jack and Jill Foundation; over the years, the chapter has presented more than 300 young African American men who have since gone on to lead successful personal and professional lives; and

WHEREAS, With the motto, "Let's work, let's play, let's live together," Jack and Jill of America, along with its Austin chapter, has enhanced the lives of innumerable African American

youths through the stimulating family programs and activities that it sponsors as well as its educational and charitable projects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, and its Austin chapter for the opportunities that they provide for young Texans and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success with their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate