

By: Allen

H.R. No. 200

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For close to a century, during the years of  
2 segregation, African American high schools in Texas rendered an  
3 immeasurable service to their communities and to the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Staffed by exceptionally talented and dedicated  
5 teachers and coaches, many of whom held graduate degrees from  
6 highly regarded universities in the North, these schools embraced  
7 and molded generations of students; the youth who entered their  
8 doors learned not only academics but important life lessons that  
9 helped them to build rewarding and productive lives; and

10 WHEREAS, The alumni of African American high schools went on  
11 to become respected members of their communities; their ranks have  
12 included doctors, lawyers, judges, elected officials, educators,  
13 principals, administrators, counselors, coaches, dentists,  
14 ministers, nurses, and businesspeople; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States, led  
16 by Chief Justice Earl Warren, ruled that racially segregated public  
17 schools were unconstitutional; slowly, during the 1950s and 1960s,  
18 Texas towns and cities began to integrate their educational  
19 systems, and in this process, many African American high schools  
20 were closed; and

21 WHEREAS, Those in Texas that ceased to operate include O. L.  
22 Price in Taylor, Blackshear in Hearne, Freeman in Caldwell, O. J.  
23 Thomas in Cameron, Carter G. Woodson in Abilene, Emmitt Scott in  
24 Tyler, E. J. Campbell in Nacogdoches, Charlie Brown in West

1 Columbia, Marshall in Angleton, Lanier in Freeport, E. H. Henry in  
2 Eagle Lake, M. R. Wood in Sugarland, A. W. Jackson in Rosenberg,  
3 Lorraine Crosby in Hitchcock, George Washington Carver in Lockhart,  
4 George Washington Carver in Baytown, and George Washington Carver  
5 in Sweeny, Fidelity Manor in Galena Park, Charles Drew in Crosby,  
6 Colbert in Dayton, Emma Wallace in Orange, Riverside in Columbus,  
7 Randolph in LaGrange, Solomon M. Coles in Corpus Christi, I. M.  
8 Terrell in Fort Worth, and Wharton Training High School in Wharton;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A number of distinguished graduates of other African  
11 American high schools that were closed are visiting the State  
12 Capitol on this day; among those present in the house of  
13 representatives chamber are: Lynn Ray Ellison and Clarence  
14 Caldwell, alumni of Booker T. Washington High School in Texas City;  
15 Shameria Barber and Delores Bell, alumni of Paul Laurence Dunbar  
16 High School in Dickinson; Edward Ross, representing the  
17 Woodland-Lincoln Association in West Texas City, an area that was  
18 formerly a part of La Marque; Michael Martindale, Gloria Harris,  
19 and Verlee Henderson, alumni of E. A. Greer High School in El Campo;  
20 Willie Giles, Casaleen Batts, and Outlar Simmons, alumni of T. L.  
21 Pink High School in Glen Flora; Jesse Price Lyons, an alumnus of  
22 Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Livingston; David Henson,  
23 Barbara James, Emma Johnson, and Betty Bruno, alumni of Lincoln  
24 High School in La Marque; Johnny Adams, an alumnus of Hungerford  
25 High School in Hungerford; Vera Adams, an alumnus of Ralph Bunche  
26 High School in Crockett; Barbara Reese and Vera Gary, alumni of  
27 Central High School in Galveston; Delores Gregg Duffie, an alumnus

1 of L. C. Anderson High School in Austin; Joan Brown, an alumnus of  
2 Phillis Wheatley High School in San Antonio; William and Doris  
3 Howard, alumni of E. A. Kemp High School in Bryan; Jonas Brinkley,  
4 an alumnus of Herman High School in Van Vleck; Patricia Wiggins, an  
5 alumnus of A. G. Hilliard High School in Bay City; Marjorie  
6 Middleton, an alumnus of Powell Point High School in Kendleton; and  
7 Helen Rhem, an alumnus of Aycok High School in Rockdale; and

8 WHEREAS, African American high schools were revered within  
9 their communities for the deeply profound commitment they brought  
10 to their mission and for the powerful influence they had in  
11 inspiring countless young men and women; the contributions of these  
12 schools to their students and to society at large are truly beyond  
13 measure; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the African American high schools  
16 of Texas for their heroic achievements before the advent of  
17 integration and honor the alumni who are helping to keep alive the  
18 memory of those beloved institutions.