

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, One of the most forceful, impassioned voices to be
2 raised in behalf of African Americans during the 20th century was
3 that of Malcolm X; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925, Malcolm X
5 experienced the harsh effects of racial intolerance from an early
6 age; while he was still quite young, his family had to move several
7 times because of threats from a white supremacist group, and in 1931
8 his father died in a suspicious accident; and

9 WHEREAS, Although he was a gifted student who graduated at
10 the head of his class in junior high, Malcolm X was discouraged from
11 pursuing his ambition to become a lawyer by a teacher who told him
12 it was not a realistic goal; he subsequently dropped out of school
13 and moved to the Northeast; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1946, Malcolm X was sentenced to 10 years in
15 prison for burglary; while in jail, he became a follower of Elijah
16 Muhammad, leader of a black separatist group known as the Nation of
17 Islam; he also used his time in prison to read voraciously about
18 politics and history, especially about African slavery and the
19 oppression of African Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, Paroled in 1952, Malcolm X rose swiftly in the
21 Nation of Islam hierarchy: within two years, he had become minister
22 of the temples in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, and in 1957 he
23 became the group's national spokesman; and

24 WHEREAS, A fiery, charismatic orator, he received numerous

1 invitations to participate in debates and make personal
2 appearances; it was largely through his influence that the Nation
3 of Islam grew from 500 members in 1952 to 30,000 members in 1963,
4 the year the *New York Times* reported him to be the second most
5 sought-after speaker in the country; and

6 WHEREAS, Malcolm X broke with Elijah Muhammad in March 1964
7 and founded his own religious organization, Muslim Mosque, Inc.;
8 the next month he made a pilgrimage to Mecca that profoundly altered
9 his world view; after engaging with people from many different
10 cultures during this sojourn, he moved closer to orthodox Islam and
11 became more hopeful about the possibility of racial harmony; and

12 WHEREAS, Following his return to the U.S., Malcolm X founded
13 the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), to bring together
14 the different elements of the African American struggle for
15 equality; and

16 WHEREAS, Among the fundamental tenets espoused by Malcolm X
17 were a belief in the vital importance of education and self-help and
18 a conviction that faith should be expressed in action; in his last
19 years, he looked to collaboration and coalition building to help
20 achieve African American advancement; and

21 WHEREAS, Malcolm X was assassinated on February 21, 1965,
22 during an OAAU rally in New York City; since that time, his life and
23 views have reached a still wider audience through several books,
24 including an autobiography written in collaboration with Alex
25 Haley, and a major film by Spike Lee; and

26 WHEREAS, Today, Malcolm X is remembered around the world as
27 an eloquent, powerful champion for human dignity and freedom; now,

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1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the death of
4 Malcolm X.

Chavez

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 764 was adopted by the House on March 28, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House