

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 2692

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The history of Texas and of the United States is a
2 richly textured tapestry woven of the contributions of many people
3 and many races, each enlivening the whole in large and small ways;
4 some of these contributions are well-documented and widely known
5 while others remain untold or have been long forgotten, yet all have
6 been essential in shaping the state and nation in which we live; and

7 WHEREAS, While the celebration of Black History Month in
8 February provides an occasion to recognize the rich cultural
9 heritage of one such group and often brings to light the significant
10 contributions that African Americans have made and are making, the
11 limited nature of this annual observation does not provide an
12 adequate platform for achieving a comprehensive, integrated,
13 in-depth understanding of the context in which various
14 contributions were made or of the true impact they have had on our
15 common heritage; and

16 WHEREAS, No part of Texas history is complete without mention
17 of the role African Americans played in that history, whether it is
18 the history of settlements in the state, the development of various
19 industries that have become synonymous with Texas, or the cultural
20 legacy we enjoy today; and

21 WHEREAS, Countless examples of contributions, innovations,
22 pioneering efforts, and stellar achievement abound, and it is
23 imperative to note and remember each one, however great or small,
24 not merely to preserve a legacy but to build on it as a foundation

1 for a better, more tolerant, and just society; to do so requires a
2 thorough study of the past in a rigorous and systematic manner that
3 is best achieved in a setting conducive to objective inquiry,
4 analysis, and understanding; and

5 WHEREAS, African American history, and the contributions of
6 blacks to the greatness of this state and nation, have not received
7 sufficient emphasis in the curriculum of our universities and
8 junior colleges, and students desiring to pursue further education
9 and research in this field find themselves hampered by the limited
10 offering of courses in African American studies; now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
13 Legislature hereby request that the governing boards of public
14 junior college districts located in one or more counties with a
15 substantial African American population evaluate the demand for and
16 feasibility of establishing an African American studies program or
17 other course work in African American studies at one or more junior
18 colleges in their districts.