

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Margaret Mary Healy-Murphy, born on May 4, 1833, in
2 Cahirciveen, County Kerry, Ireland, to Jane and Richard Healy,
3 affected many lives, specifically those of African Americans in
4 Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1887, she purchased land at the corner of Live Oak
6 and Nolan Streets in San Antonio, and the following year, amid
7 controversy, she constructed her "free school for colored
8 children," which consisted of a brick church, a clergy house, and a
9 school building and became the first Catholic church and school for
10 African Americans in the state; and

11 WHEREAS, Mother Margaret went on to found the Sisters of the
12 Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate in 1893, and on her death in 1907,
13 she left behind a thriving community of 15 sisters and two
14 postulants in San Antonio and Laredo, as well as in Oaxaca, Mexico;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Under the direction of Sister Superior Mary
17 Evangelist Jennings in 1909, some 27 new members joined, and
18 schools for African American students opened in Dallas, West San
19 Antonio, Mobile, Alabama, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Pascagoula,
20 Mississippi; in addition, schools for Mexican and rural white
21 students opened in Longview, Charlotte, Gonzales, and San Antonio,
22 as well as in Tabasco, Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, With these expansions, the Sisters became
24 associated with the Josephite Fathers and Brothers in Baltimore,

1 Maryland, a congregation whose main focus was to minister to the
2 African American people, and they began to administer St. Peter
3 Claver Mission in San Antonio and serve locations throughout the
4 South and in Africa; moreover, they purchased land on the east side
5 of San Antonio, where a new motherhouse was constructed at 301 Yucca
6 Street; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary
8 Immaculate, guided by their belief in the power of the Holy Spirit
9 and their love for Mary, continue their work of simple,
10 compassionate caring in a variety of ministries; they are nurses,
11 aides, and hospital chaplains, caring for and bringing communion to
12 the sick and elderly; they visit families, engage in parish
13 ministry, and advise the needy and poor on neighborhood
14 improvements; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and
17 Mary Immaculate for their commitment to the poor and oppressed in
18 the United States, Mexico, and Zambia, Africa; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate as
21 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

McClendon

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Peña
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 400

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 400 was adopted by the House on
February 26, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House