

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 400

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.