

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 526

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 75th anniversary of the founding of Phillis  
2 Wheatley High School in San Antonio is being celebrated on February  
3 27, 2009, and this noteworthy milestone provides a welcome  
4 opportunity to pay tribute to the history of this landmark  
5 educational institution; and

6           WHEREAS, Phillis Wheatley High School was originally  
7 established in 1933 on the east side of San Antonio, and it was at  
8 that time the only area high school for African American students;  
9 the building closed its doors in 1970; and

10           WHEREAS, Numerous people protested the loss of the iconic  
11 school, and as a result, the campus previously known as  
12 Brackenridge High School was renamed Phillis Wheatley High School  
13 when that institution was rebuilt in the 1970s; meanwhile, the  
14 original Phillis Wheatley school building reopened as Emerson  
15 Middle School; and

16           WHEREAS, Interest in the historic home of the school  
17 increased after the Phillis Wheatley Alumni Association was formed  
18 in 1983 and began holding all-school reunions every two years; in  
19 1986, the Phillis Wheatley association joined forces with the  
20 Brackenridge Alumni Association to petition the board of the San  
21 Antonio Independent School District to restore the original names  
22 of the historic school buildings; ultimately, this plan was  
23 approved by the board, staff, and students, and Emerson Middle  
24 School, the original site of Phillis Wheatley High School, became

1 Phillis Wheatley Middle School; in addition, the Brackenridge title  
2 was reapplied to the high school that had originally held that name;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Designated as an official landmark by the San  
5 Antonio Historical Society, the original Phillis Wheatley school  
6 building on Gabriel Street is a true piece of Texas history that  
7 continues its mission of preparing young people for the future, and  
8 the rich and significant heritage of this esteemed institution is  
9 indeed deserving of recognition; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
11 Legislature hereby honor the 75th anniversary of the founding of  
12 Phillis Wheatley High School and extend best wishes to its alumni  
13 and to the current students and staff of the middle school; and, be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
17 House of Representatives.