

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1935

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Representatives of the William Leonard Davis
2 District of the Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, are
3 dedicating a building at El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Camp near Fischer
4 on May 30, 2009, in honor of the district's namesake; and

5 WHEREAS, W. L. Davis, an educator and civic leader, was born
6 in Hallettsville on January 6, 1873; he attended grade school and
7 high school in La Grange, earned a bachelor's degree from Prairie
8 View Normal Institute in 1894, and received a master's degree from
9 the University of Kansas in 1940; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis served as an elementary school principal
11 in Schulenburg from 1900 to 1902 and as principal of Hempstead High
12 School from 1903 to 1914; after moving to Houston, he taught at
13 Emancipation Blackshear Elementary School and later, from 1920 to
14 1926, at Gregory Elementary School; he concluded his career in
15 education as the principal of Gregory Elementary from 1943 to 1944;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Deeply engaged in the community, Mr. Davis gave
18 generously of his time and talents to Antioch Baptist Church in
19 Houston and served as president of the Civic Betterment League of
20 Houston and Harris County and as a member of the Texas Interracial
21 Commission; and

22 WHEREAS, At a time when African American youth had little
23 access to scouting programs, Mr. Davis worked to achieve equality
24 of opportunity within the Boy Scouts; in 1944, as a result of his

1 efforts, the council created a district to serve African American
2 boys and young men; the new jurisdiction was named after Mr. Davis,
3 in tribute to his tireless determination to extend the reach of the
4 organization; and

5 WHEREAS, The same year that the Davis District was
6 established, Mr. Davis donated a building to enhance the facilities
7 at El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Camp; it is that building, given in
8 memory of his wife, Roselle E. Davis, that is now being dedicated;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, W. L. Davis played a crucial role in enabling
11 African American youth in the Houston area to enjoy the many
12 benefits of the Boy Scout movement, and it is indeed fitting that
13 his staunch devotion to scouting and to the welfare of his community
14 be memorialized; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the William
17 Leonard Davis Building at El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Camp and extend
18 to all those associated with the W. L. Davis District sincere best
19 wishes for continued success in all their endeavors; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for the W. L. Davis District as an expression of high
23 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.