

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2996

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For 94 years, the El Paso Branch of the NAACP has
2 been a pioneering organization in the struggle for civil rights in
3 the State of Texas and throughout the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded just six years after the national
5 organization began and the first branch to be established in the
6 Lone Star State, the El Paso NAACP was started by a group of
7 dedicated charter members, with Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon playing an
8 especially prominent role; an African American physician, Dr. Nixon
9 had moved to El Paso in 1909 after previously practicing in Cameron;
10 inspired to resist racial discrimination, he joined with other area
11 residents to form the city's NAACP branch in January 1915; William
12 Henderson became the first president; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1920s, Dr. Nixon and the NAACP directed their
14 attention to the Terrell Election Law, which prohibited blacks from
15 voting in Democratic primary elections in Texas; after being denied
16 the right to cast a ballot in a 1924 primary, Dr. Nixon began legal
17 proceedings that resulted in two Supreme Court cases, *Nixon v.*
18 *Herndon* and *Nixon v. Condon*; he prevailed in both, and these court
19 rulings proved to be important steps in the expansion of voting
20 rights in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The El Paso Branch of the NAACP has benefited from
22 the contributions of many other dedicated members and the
23 leadership of a series of outstanding presidents; today, that
24 tradition continues under the direction of Harold E. Howell, who

1 has served as president since January 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, the
3 El Paso Branch of the NAACP has been a tireless champion of social
4 justice, and the work of this esteemed organization will continue
5 to be a guiding force for social progress in the years ahead; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby honor the history and achievements of the El
9 Paso Branch of the NAACP and extend sincere best wishes to its
10 members for continued success; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.