

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Frenchtown community of Houston, which is receiving an official Texas Historical Marker; and

WHEREAS, In the 18th and 19th centuries, a distinct ethnic and cultural group arose in Louisiana known as "Creoles of Color"; drawn from French, Spanish, African, and Native American cultures, they were accorded status as free persons before the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, With the institution of Jim Crow laws, they lost their special status and faced the hardships common to other people of color; declining agricultural prices, drought, and finally, the destructive 1927 Mississippi River flood forced many of them to seek refuge away from Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Those who arrived in Houston established a close-knit neighborhood called Frenchtown, where residents built Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church and helped maintain their cultural identity by marrying within the community, holding social gatherings called *la-las*, and enjoying zydeco music; and

WHEREAS, As segregation began to wane after World War II, the community began to lose its identity as a Creole enclave, but a renewed interest in Creole culture and zydeco music has rekindled interest in this historic community and led to preservation efforts; it is truly deserving of recognition with an official Texas Historical Marker; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby extend congratulations to the Frenchtown community on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this unique community.

Gallegos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 2, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate