

By: S. Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 180

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Winlow Place Civic Club and the Harris County
2 Historical Commission are dedicating a historical marker at Sidney
3 Lanier Middle School in Houston on September 10, 2011, in memory of
4 Texas pioneer Obedience Fort Smith; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1771, Mrs. Smith was the daughter of Sarah
6 Suggs Fort and Elias Fort, a leading Particular Baptist deacon in
7 North Carolina and later in Tennessee; she married David Smith in
8 1791, and the couple had 11 children, though only 4 survived their
9 parents; the family lived in Kentucky and later in Mississippi,
10 where David Smith passed away in 1835; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith subsequently followed her son, Benjamin
12 Fort Smith, to Texas, where he was an adjutant to General Sam
13 Houston; arriving just weeks before Texas declared its
14 independence, she received a land grant two years later for
15 thousands of acres of what is now the west side of Houston, and the
16 titles of many properties in the city still cite the Obedience Smith
17 survey; and

18 WHEREAS, A founder of the First Baptist Church of Houston in
19 1841, Mrs. Smith was also the matriarch of a family that left its
20 mark on Texas history in many ways; her family members and
21 descendants include judges John W. N. A. Smith and T. B. J. Hadley,
22 Mississippi governor and Texas state senator Hiram George Runnels,
23 Civil War colonels Benjamin Franklin Terry and Thomas Saltus
24 Lubbock, suffragist and Texas Women's Press Association founder

1 Aurelia Mohl, first librarian of the Houston Lyceum Margaret
2 Foster, and a founder of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Mabel
3 Smith-Astin; Mrs. Smith passed away in 1847; and

4 WHEREAS, The installation of this historical marker
5 acknowledges the unique role that Obedience Smith played in the
6 history of Texas and of its largest city, and it helps ensure that
7 the story of this remarkable woman will be preserved for
8 generations to come; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the dedication
11 of a historical marker in memory of Obedience Fort Smith and extend
12 to all those taking part in the ceremony sincere best wishes for a
13 meaningful and memorable event.