

By: Dukes

H.C.R. No. 153

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Austin Area Urban League are visiting
2 the State Capitol on May 25, 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded on August 12, 1977, the Austin Area Urban
4 League is affiliated with the National Urban League, a civil rights
5 organization that has fought discrimination for more than a
6 century; the Urban League has contributed immeasurably to social
7 progress and remains dedicated to the economic empowerment of
8 historically underserved residents in urban communities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Austin Area Urban League began operations in the
10 basement of Wesley United Methodist Church; from that humble
11 beginning, the organization has grown dramatically to meet the
12 needs of area residents; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to job readiness training, the group's
14 Workforce Development program provides GED courses, job search
15 assistance, and office and life skills instruction; the league
16 works with 300 employers to help job candidates find suitable
17 positions, and it conducts after-school computer and technology
18 classes at four different Housing Authority of Austin sites; and

19 WHEREAS, The organization offers a first-time homebuyer's
20 class and awards those who complete it a \$1,000 grant toward a down
21 payment; moreover, it performs hundreds of emergency and scheduled
22 home repairs annually, free of cost to low-income home owners, and
23 it partners with some 40 other entities, including Dell, Seton, and
24 the Meadows Foundation, to further its important goals; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, the Austin Area Urban League remains
2 fortunate in the continued leadership of many of its esteemed
3 founders, including the Reverend Freddie Dixon, who was pastor of
4 Wesley United Methodist Church in 1977 when the church became the
5 birthplace of the Urban League in Central Texas, and the Honorable
6 Harriett Murphy, a retired municipal court judge who was a new
7 attorney working to help found the league in the 1970s; also among
8 this number are Linda Moore Smith, the organization's first
9 executive director, who went on to serve the National Urban League
10 in New York before reprising her role in Austin, and Carolyn Holt
11 Goldston, a longtime advocate for racial justice and civil rights
12 and a lifetime member of the organization; continuing the tradition
13 of excellence established by these local legends are Austin native
14 Scotty Holman, a financial executive, who serves as the 2010 chair,
15 and the Honorable Jeffrey K. Richard, who was elected president and
16 chief executive officer in 2005 and also serves as a trustee for the
17 Austin Community College District; other noteworthy founders and
18 longtime members continue to share their wisdom and experience with
19 the organization and inspire the members of its newest program, the
20 AAUL Young Professionals; and

21 WHEREAS, Unwavering in its determination to improve race
22 relations and foster economic and social equality, the Austin Area
23 Urban League has created an enduring legacy, and its efforts in
24 behalf of education, employment readiness, wellness, and
25 affordable housing are greatly benefiting innumerable people and
26 making a lasting, positive difference in the community; now,
27 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby honor the Austin Area Urban League for its outstanding
3 achievements and extend to its members sincere best wishes for
4 continued success; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.