

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 806

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, John Saunders Chase, Jr., is being honored at a
2 celebration of the 120th anniversary of the First Shiloh Missionary
3 Baptist Church in Houston for designing and building the current
4 church and for his pioneering contributions in the field of
5 architecture; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Annapolis, Maryland, to Viola Hall Chase and
7 John Saunders Chase, Sr., on January 23, 1925, John Chase earned a
8 bachelor's degree from Hampton University in Virginia and then came
9 to Austin to work; he was one of the first two African Americans to
10 enroll at The University of Texas at Austin when its graduate
11 programs were desegregated in 1950, and he was the first African
12 American to graduate from the university's architecture school when
13 he did so in 1952; and

14 WHEREAS, That same year, Mr. Chase joined Texas Southern
15 University as an assistant professor of architectural drafting and
16 started his own firm; his career began with designs for churches,
17 schools, houses, and small public buildings; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Chase was the first African American licensed
19 architect in Texas and later became the first African American
20 admitted to the Texas Society of Architects and the Houston chapter
21 of the American Institute of Architects; he cofounded the National
22 Organization of Minority Architects in 1971 and was appointed by
23 President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to serve on the United States
24 Commission of Fine Arts, becoming the first African American to

1 serve on that commission; and

2 WHEREAS, Responsible for many major Houston community
3 buildings, Mr. Chase's firm designed the George R. Brown Convention
4 Center and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at TSU; his work on
5 Booker T. Washington High School garnered him awards from the
6 Houston Independent School District and the Texas Association of
7 School Boards, and he has been further recognized with election to
8 the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows and with
9 the institute's Whitney M. Young, Jr., Award; he is also the
10 recipient of four consecutive Design for Excellence awards from the
11 National Organization of Minority Architects; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Chase was the first African American to be
13 designated a Distinguished Alumnus by the Texas Exes association,
14 and he became the first African American to lead that association in
15 1998; he has shared his time and talents as a member of the boards of
16 Hampton University, Huston-Tillotson University, and the Houston
17 chapter of the American Red Cross, among other major organizations
18 and institutions; and

19 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Chase enjoys the love
20 and support of his wife, Drucie, and his children, John, Anthony,
21 and Saundria; and

22 WHEREAS, John Chase has made a positive difference in his
23 community, state, and nation, and the barriers he broke with so many
24 of his accomplishments ensure that his remarkable legacy will not
25 soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
27 Legislature hereby honor John Saunders Chase, Jr., for his

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1 achievements in the field of architecture and extend to him sincere
2 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Mr. Chase as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.