

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2010 marked the centennial of the Slocum
2 massacre, a horrific incident in our state's history and one that is
3 deserving of attention and discussion; and

4 WHEREAS, In the summer of 1910, racial tensions were running
5 high in East Texas after the lynching of an African American in
6 Cherokee County and the subsequent rumors of unrest among area
7 blacks; in the small community of Slocum, in Anderson County, the
8 atmosphere grew more heated when a dispute arose between an African
9 American resident and a white man over an unpaid debt; around the
10 same time, several whites in the area had become incensed over what
11 they viewed as inappropriate behavior by certain blacks; in late
12 July, these factors combined to touch off a violent and deadly
13 attack; and

14 WHEREAS, A mob of white men brandishing rifles, shotguns, and
15 pistols descended on Slocum and began firing on unarmed African
16 Americans; the attackers were estimated to number as many as 1,000
17 people, and their bloody rampage took a heavy toll; the murder of
18 eight people was confirmed, and reports indicated that many more
19 may have died in what became known as the Slocum massacre; and

20 WHEREAS, The incident was reported in newspapers across the
21 nation, and Texas Rangers and state militia were sent to the area to
22 prevent further bloodshed; an investigation by an Anderson County
23 grand jury overseen by Judge B. H. Gardner of Palestine led to the
24 indictment of seven people, including Jim Spurger, who was believed

1 to have been a prime instigator in the attacks; because of the
2 emotions surrounding the case, Judge Gardner moved the trial to
3 Harris County, but it was there that the wheels of justice stopped
4 turning; the prosecuting attorney never brought the case to trial,
5 and no one was ever convicted of the crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, In Slocum, the African American survivors mourned
7 their lost friends and loved ones and lived in fear of further
8 violence; ultimately, many of them chose to move away, abandoning
9 homes, stores, and farms; ancestors of the Hollie family suffered
10 the loss of one son and the wounding of another, and they were
11 forced to abandon property that included a home, a store, and
12 several hundred acres of farmland; and

13 WHEREAS, The event wreaked devastation in the lives of
14 African Americans living in the area, yet it has since been largely
15 ignored, receiving no formal acknowledgment by state or local
16 officials and little coverage in historical accounts of the era;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Only by shining a light on previous injustices can
19 we learn from them and move toward a future of greater healing and
20 reconciliation; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby acknowledge the Slocum massacre of 1910.

Veasey
Burnam

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

H.R. No. 865

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 865 was adopted by the House on March 30, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House