

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1183

WHEREAS, Through the establishment of the African American National Spelling Bee Championships, Incorporated, Robert L. Garner, Jr., is making a difference in the lives of many young people in the Houston area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garner organized the Houston Inaugural Spelling Bee to encourage African American youth to learn about the origin and spelling of words, to increase their vocabularies, and to develop confidence; the event took place on May 14, 2011, at Jack Yates Senior High School, with middle school students from a number of institutions in the area participating; seventh-graders Mary Bello, Ashley Williams, and Niaha Dyson from Girls and Boys Prep Academy in Houston earned first-, second-, and third-place honors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garner, a successful businessman, is a community advisor for Precinct 2 in Fort Bend County and also volunteers his time with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department; as a student he struggled with reading, but found that by focusing on his spelling, he was able to improve both his comprehension and his self-assurance; and

WHEREAS, Seeking to move today's youth from the video store to the bookstore, this outstanding Texan has demonstrated his praiseworthy support of African American students in his community, and his efforts to reach and inspire young people are truly deserving of commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend Robert L. Garner, Jr., founder of the African American National Spelling Bee Championships, Incorporated, and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Garner as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 26, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate