

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1220

In Memory  
of  
Abdias do Nascimento

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Brazilian civil rights leader, statesman, actor, journalist, and poet Abdias do Nascimento, who died May 23, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, A native of Franca, São Paulo, Brazil, Abdias do Nascimento served the cause of racial equality with courage, strength, and determination; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Nascimento began his civil rights activism as a young man in the 1930s and at one point was jailed for his resistance to racist attacks; his strong interest in the dramatic arts and his desire to promote artistic opportunities led to the creation of TEN, the Experimental Theater of the Negro, which helped form the country's first generation of black actors and actresses and contributed to the creation of dramatic literature about Brazilians of African descent; and

**WHEREAS**, He was forced into exile by the military regime, and served for more than a decade as a visiting professor at several universities in the United States; upon his return to Brazil, he was elected to the federal Chamber of Deputies, where he was the author of Brazil's first affirmative action law; he also served in the Senate, where he continued to devote his legislative career to advancing the principle of equal rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Nascimento has received honors and awards from the United States, Nigeria, Mexico, and the United Nations; at home, he was awarded the Order of Rio Branco with the rank of commander, the highest honor granted by the Brazilian government; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Nascimento played a vital role throughout his life in promoting the rights and culture of people of African descent; he founded Ipeafro, the Institute for Afro-Brazilian Studies and Research, to further enhance opportunities in the areas of education and culture, and he also founded the newspaper *Quilombo* and wrote more than 20 books; and

**WHEREAS**, Abdias do Nascimento was an inspiration to all who knew him, and although he will be deeply missed by his family and fellow citizens, his spirit will abide in their hearts for years to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Abdias do Nascimento; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Abdias do Nascimento.

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2011, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate