

By: Giddings, Turner of Harris, Craddick,
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H.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Each year, the date of July 18 is recognized as
2 Nelson Mandela International Day; in 2013, that date will also mark
3 Mr. Mandela's 95th birthday, making this a fitting occasion to
4 celebrate the life and legacy of a courageous and inspirational
5 figure who is revered around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Born into the Tembu tribe in the Transkei region of
7 South Africa in 1918, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela earned a degree
8 from University College of Fort Hare and studied law at the
9 University of Witwatersrand; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1944, Mr. Mandela joined the African National
11 Congress, and he soon became actively engaged in resistance against
12 the racist apartheid policies of South Africa's ruling National
13 Party; as part of that effort, he helped launch the "Defiance"
14 campaign of civil disobedience in 1952; the government responded by
15 trying him for treason in the late 1950s, though he was ultimately
16 acquitted of that charge; and

17 WHEREAS, After the Sharpeville Massacre of 69 anti-apartheid
18 protestors in 1960, the ANC was banned, and Mr. Mandela began
19 advocating for armed resistance to the government; arrested in
20 1962, he was sentenced to five years of hard labor, and in a
21 separate trial that began the following year, he was sentenced to
22 life in prison; and

23 WHEREAS, From 1964 to 1982, Mr. Mandela was jailed in a small
24 cell on Robben Island, off the coast of Cape Town, and he was later

1 incarcerated at two prisons on the mainland; during his 25 years as
2 a prisoner, he endured harsh conditions while steadfastly refusing
3 to compromise his belief in justice and equal rights for all South
4 Africans; his valiant stand helped strengthen opposition to
5 apartheid, both within South Africa and around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The anti-apartheid movement achieved one of its
7 greatest victories in 1990 when Mr. Mandela was released from
8 prison, and he soon became a key figure in the negotiations to
9 dismantle the country's unjust system of government; he received
10 the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and the following year he was elected
11 as South Africa's president in the nation's first multiracial
12 election; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2009, the General Assembly of the United Nations
14 voted unanimously to commemorate his birthday each year as Nelson
15 Mandela International Day, an observance that emphasizes the
16 ability of individuals to effect positive change in their
17 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of his life, Nelson Mandela has
19 followed a difficult and often lonely path in the pursuit of
20 justice; starting as an idealistic student determined to make his
21 country a better place, he went on to become a resolute and
22 determined prisoner of conscience and, finally, an admired
23 international figure who symbolizes the victory of freedom over
24 oppression; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas,
26 2nd Called Session, hereby designate July 18, 2013, as Nelson
27 Mandela International Day in Texas.