

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83**

**WHEREAS,** The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Morney-Berry Farm for its many contributions to the appreciation of African American history in our state; and

**WHEREAS,** The Morney-Berry Farm has for many years played an essential role in the life of the African American community in Dallas; since 1865, it has transformed from a residence that once housed slaveowners to a home bought and owned by former slaves and passed down to their descendants, who have earned recognition by the Family Land Heritage Program, which honors families that have owned or operated a farm for more than 100 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year, the Morney-Berry Farm hosts a Juneteenth celebration that includes a re-enactment of the experiences of slaves in the United States; the program features a replica of an African village and examines the freedoms enjoyed by Africans before being placed in shackles by slave traders and herded onto slave ships; it goes on to replicate a slave auction, field work on a plantation, and escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad; and

**WHEREAS,** By including an examination of the origins of the men, women, and children sold into slavery, this exceptional program presents a more complete narrative of their history, and by drawing attention to the horrors they faced, it also highlights the extraordinary scope of the achievements of freed slaves, who acquired land, established successful communities, and became economically self-sufficient in the face of ongoing prejudice and adversity; and

**WHEREAS,** The farm's annual Juneteenth celebration helps to ensure that the struggles of African Americans during this painful chapter in American history are seen in their proper context and remain relevant in the present; and

**WHEREAS,** To help further this important effort, the students of the Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program are providing their time and energy to perform vital cleanup and restoration work for this exceptional historic site; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commend the proprietors of Morney-Berry Farm for their contributions to the dissemination of the state's history and extend to them best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Morney-Berry Farm as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 25, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate