

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1802

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce  
2 are gathering in Austin on April 30, 2013, to celebrate Tri-County  
3 Black Chamber of Commerce Day at the State Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, A nonprofit organization with headquarters in  
5 Houston, the TCBC works to promote the economic, civil, and social  
6 welfare of African American business owners and professionals; and

7           WHEREAS, Led by chair Doretta Fisher, president and CEO  
8 Leondria Thompson, vice president A. Todd Jackson, secretary Diatra  
9 James, treasurer Verna McCarthy, and directors Henry Mosley, Sherri  
10 Gongara, Eugene Smith, and Marcial Orlando Felix, members of the  
11 TCBC represent small businesses, corporations, community and  
12 professional associations, and other chambers of commerce; and

13           WHEREAS, Focusing on business education, advocacy, and  
14 development, the organization offers training sessions and  
15 workshops featuring discussions of best practices and strategies  
16 for securing financing, stimulating job creation, and facilitating  
17 entry into the global marketplace; it also arranges town hall  
18 meetings with elected officials and provides technical assistance  
19 and venues for networking as additional benefits to membership; and

20           WHEREAS, The TCBC was inspired by Booker T. Washington's  
21 Negro Business League; established in 1900, the league advanced the  
22 philosophy that independent business development was a condition  
23 for economic cooperation, independence, and prosperity; Marcus  
24 Garvey founded similar organizations in the early 20th century,

1 including the Universal Negro Improvement Association and the  
2 African Communities League, which advocated that African Americans  
3 should have the opportunity to legislate for their own common good;  
4 Mr. Garvey spent much of his time and energy promoting trade and  
5 commerce between Black people from the United States and Africa,  
6 Central and South America, and the West Indies; and

7 WHEREAS, Following this distinguished legacy, the TCBC's  
8 most recent trade mission, held in Belize in March of 2013, brought  
9 together entrepreneurs and government officials to explore  
10 partnerships and export opportunities with Belize's Ministry of  
11 Energy, Science & Technology and Public Utilities; the TCBC has a  
12 similar business development mission planned for July and August  
13 2013, when its members will visit Panama City, Panama, and  
14 Barranquilla, Colombia, to discuss how micro and small business  
15 owners can benefit from U.S. free trade agreements; and

16 WHEREAS, By working to build a network of prosperous business  
17 owners actively promoting global competitiveness, the Tri-County  
18 Black Chamber of Commerce is benefiting countless people and is  
19 making a noteworthy contribution to the prosperity of the Lone Star  
20 State; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize April 30, 2013, as Tri-County Black  
23 Chamber of Commerce Day at the State Capitol and extend to the  
24 organization's members sincere best wishes for continued success.