

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A former slave who rose to prominence as a
2 businessman and civic leader, Charlie Brown played a significant
3 role in the history of Brazoria County, and his life and legacy are
4 indeed worthy of tribute; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Virginia, Charlie Brown traveled west to
6 Texas following his emancipation and settled in Brazoria County;
7 though unable to read or write, he had an innate business sense that
8 led him to a number of successful entrepreneurial endeavors; he
9 harvested cedar lumber to be milled in Galveston and shipped to
10 furniture makers in New York, and his interests grew to include a
11 gristmill, a syrup mill, and a cotton gin; and

12 WHEREAS, With the wealth he acquired, Mr. Brown purchased
13 land, eventually amassing some 3,000 acres near present-day
14 Danciger and another 200 in what is now West Columbia, where at one
15 time he owned a third of the town's property; he married a former
16 slave of the Dance family, Isabella, and the couple acquired the
17 Dance estate for their home; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown donated land for schools in Danciger,
19 Linville, and West Columbia; the latter of the three became the
20 Charlie Brown School, which educated children of color in the
21 community for many decades before it was closed in 1965; Mr. Brown
22 believed strongly that students should learn about and understand
23 the struggles of their African American forebears, and he began a
24 Juneteenth Celebration to commemorate the end of slavery in Texas;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, When Charlie Brown passed away in 1920 at the age of
3 92, he was thought to be the wealthiest African American in the
4 state, and he was highly respected by people from all walks of life;
5 in 1955, a street was dedicated in his name by order of the city
6 council of West Columbia, and most recently, his achievements and
7 generosity were recognized with the mayoral proclamation of Charlie
8 Brown Day in West Columbia on August 30, 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, Although he lived through slavery and its
10 injustices, Charlie Brown became a prosperous landowner and a force
11 for good in his community, and his remarkable story serves as an
12 enduring source of inspiration; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby commemorate the life of Charlie Brown and honor the unique
15 contribution he made to the history of Brazoria County and the State
16 of Texas.

Bonnen of Brazoria

Straus	Guerra	Otto
Allen	Guillen	Paddie
Alonzo	Gutierrez	Parker
Alvarado	Harless	Paul
Anchia	Hernandez	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Herrero	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Howard	Phillips
Ashby	Huberty	Pickett
Aycock	Hughes	Price
Bell	Hunter	Raney
Blanco	Isaac	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Riddle
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rinaldi
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burns	Keough	Rodriguez of Travis
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Romero, Jr.
Button	King of Parker	Rose
Canales	King of Taylor	Sanford
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Clardy	Klick	Schofield
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Dale	Laubenberg	Smith
Darby	Leach	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Springer
Deshotel	Lucio III	Stephenson
Dukes	Márquez	Stickland
Dutton	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Elkins	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Faircloth	McClendon	Tinderholt
Fallon	Menéndez	Turner of Collin
Farias	Metcalf	Turner of Harris
Farney	Meyer	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	VanDeaver
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villalba
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White of Bell
Galindo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Geren	Murphy	Workman
Giddings	Murr	Wray
Goldman	Naishtat	Wu
Gonzales	Nevárez	Zedler
González	Oliveira	Zerwas

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 58 was adopted by the House on February 24, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 58 was adopted by the Senate on February 24, 2015, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor