

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Three former death row inmates who have been
2 exonerated of the crimes for which they were convicted are visiting
3 the State Capitol on March 3, 2015, the Day of Innocence, in support
4 of a moratorium on executions and other related measures; and

5 WHEREAS, These individuals are among the 150 men and women in
6 the United States who have been released from death row since 1973,
7 either because their convictions were overturned and they won
8 acquittal at retrial, because the charges against them were
9 dropped, or because they were given an absolute pardon based on new
10 evidence of their innocence; and

11 WHEREAS, Sentenced to death in Mississippi in 1990, Sabrina
12 Butler appealed to the state supreme court and was granted a new
13 trial in 1995; in addition to the introduction of new testimony that
14 corroborated Ms. Butler's account of the incident, the medical
15 examiner changed his ruling in the case, and she was acquitted; now
16 married and the mother of three children, she recently published a
17 memoir, *The Sabrina Butler Story*; and

18 WHEREAS, Gary Drinkard was convicted in Alabama in 1995; in
19 2000, the state supreme court ordered a retrial on the basis of
20 prosecutorial misconduct, and the following year a second jury
21 found him innocent; his case was subsequently presented to the U.S.
22 Senate Judiciary Committee to illustrate the critical need for
23 competent legal representation for defendants facing the death
24 penalty; and

1 WHEREAS, Framed for murder, Shujaa Graham was sentenced in
2 California in 1976; the state supreme court overturned his
3 conviction because the district attorney had systematically
4 excluded African American jurors in his first trial; Mr. Graham was
5 ultimately acquitted in 1981, and since then he has played a leading
6 role in the anti-death penalty and human rights movements; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no way to restore to these individuals the
8 years they have lost, or to compensate them for the mental and
9 emotional anguish they have suffered; despite the immeasurable pain
10 they have endured, they have found the resilience to devote
11 themselves to effecting reforms in the criminal justice system, and
12 their efforts are a source of continuing inspiration to people
13 throughout this nation and beyond; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2015, as the Day of Innocence
16 and honor Sabrina Butler, Gary Drinkard, and Shujaa Graham for
17 their significant contributions to the debate over an issue of
18 paramount public concern.

Dutton

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

H.R. No. 808

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 808 was adopted by the House on March 3, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House