

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2057

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Homer Jones received well-deserved recognition for
2 his exceptional athletic career when he was inducted into the Texas
3 Black Sports Hall of Fame on February 7, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones first distinguished himself as a
5 multisport star during his time at Frederick Douglass High School
6 in Pittsburg; he played on the school's basketball team and posted
7 impressive times in the 100-yard and 200-yard dash races as a member
8 of the track and field squad; although he only played football
9 during his senior year, he garnered the interest of several
10 colleges and ultimately chose to attend Texas Southern University;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan became known as one of the
13 fastest athletes in TSU history, demonstrating his speed as a
14 member of the football and track teams; on the gridiron, he helped
15 the Tigers achieve a number of memorable wins, including a victory
16 over football powerhouse Grambling State University; his talents as
17 a college sprinter earned him a place on the United States Track and
18 Field Team, and he would go on to train for international
19 competition with future NFL Hall of Famer and Dallas Cowboy Bob
20 Hayes; and

21 WHEREAS, Originally drafted by the Houston Oilers of the
22 American Football League, Mr. Jones eventually joined the New York
23 Giants of the National Football League as a wide receiver; he was
24 named the team's most valuable player for 1967 after an exemplary

1 season in which he led the league in touchdown catches with 13, and
2 his average of 66.4 receiving yards per game remains a franchise
3 record; moreover, he was selected to the Pro Bowl on two separate
4 occasions; he was traded to the Cleveland Browns in 1970 and played
5 one season with that team before a knee injury forced him to retire
6 from the game; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones achieved further acclaim on the gridiron
8 by becoming the first player to "spike" the ball to celebrate a
9 touchdown, and he also returned a kickoff for a touchdown during the
10 first-ever broadcast of *Monday Night Football* in 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, An athlete possessing superb ability and
12 dedication, Homer Jones excelled against top competition in each of
13 his chosen sports, and he is indeed deserving of this notable
14 hall-of-fame honor; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Homer Jones on his induction into
17 the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and extend to him sincere best
18 wishes for the future; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Jones as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.