

By: Fallon

H.R. No. 2374

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An Official Texas Historical Marker is being
2 dedicated at the site of the Harrington, Cassady, and Clark
3 Cemeteries in Denton County on May 2, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, these three separate, historically African
5 American graveyards occupy 1.77 acres bordering Lloyd Road in the
6 northeast part of the county; the Harrington Cemetery remains in
7 its original location, while the Cassady and Clark Cemeteries were
8 moved to adjacent sites by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1953;
9 because of the construction of the Garza-Little Elm Dam, their
10 original locations are now covered by Lewisville Lake; the Texas
11 Historical Commission named all three burial grounds Historic Texas
12 Cemeteries in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, The Harrington Cemetery likely served Lloyd, an
14 early farming community dating back to 1850; the land occupied by
15 the cemetery was initially owned by the Harrington family, but it
16 belonged to E. L. Lugrand, the property's only African American
17 owner, between 1913 and 1914; the graves are marked with headstones
18 of marble, granite, sandstone, and concrete; and

19 WHEREAS, The Cassady and Clark Cemeteries were established
20 outside the nearby community of Garza on land owned by African
21 Americans; both burial grounds feature fieldstone and funeral home
22 steel plate markers; a family resting place, the Cassady Cemetery
23 was initially situated on a 30-acre plot purchased by Jacob Cassady
24 in 1872, and it includes the graves of Mr. Cassady and his wife,

1 Melinda; in 1876, former slaves George Clark and Zack Rawlings
2 bought 80 acres of land and deeded half an acre to the county for
3 both a public school and a graveyard; in addition to the Clark
4 family and a relative of Mr. Rawlings, many former neighbors were
5 buried in the Clark Cemetery, an indication of the close-knit
6 communal ties in the area; and

7 WHEREAS, These three burial grounds provide an irreplaceable
8 link to African American communities that emerged in North Texas
9 following emancipation, and the installation of this marker will
10 serve to inform and enlighten current and future generations about
11 the area's rich history; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of an Official Texas
14 Historical Marker for the Harrington, Cassady, and Clark Cemeteries
15 and extend to all who helped to bring this project to fruition
16 sincere gratitude for their contribution to preserving the heritage
17 of the Lone Star State.