

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission has recognized Long
2 Branch Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery, and this honor is
3 being celebrated with the unveiling of an Official Texas Historical
4 Marker on May 16, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, One of the oldest graveyards in Falls County, this
6 bucolic site is all that remains of Long Branch, an African American
7 community of tenant farmers and manual laborers, many of whom came
8 to Texas from Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, and
9 Virginia; the cemetery traces its beginnings to 1883, when trustees
10 of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Long Branch purchased land in
11 the settlement for the purpose of erecting a sanctuary and
12 establishing a burial ground; and

13 WHEREAS, The Long Branch Cemetery was a community graveyard,
14 meaning that any African American who was born and raised in Long
15 Branch could be buried there without indebtedness; while many of
16 the early interments went unrecorded, the cemetery is known to hold
17 the graves of 25 freed slaves, and the remains of many Long Branch
18 natives who spent their lives elsewhere were brought home by loved
19 ones to this final resting place; the more than 200 known burials
20 include those of sharecroppers, domestics, hotel workers, taxi
21 drivers, seamstresses, midwives, teachers, carpenters, butchers,
22 brick masons, and farmers; and

23 WHEREAS, Notable individuals buried in Long Branch include
24 Silvia King, a native of Morocco who is believed to have been born

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1 in 1803 and who died in Falls County in 1937; her remarkable life
2 story was recorded in the 1930s by staff of the Works Progress
3 Administration; also buried in the cemetery are a Civil War
4 veteran, Anthony Shaw of the 104th U.S. Colored Infantry, as well as
5 veterans of World War I, World War II, and Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, The last worship services in the church were held in
7 1971 and the building was later destroyed by fire, but Long Branch
8 Cemetery remains an active burial ground and a hallowed reminder of
9 the rich history of this once-vibrant Texas community; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the unveiling of an Official Texas
13 Historical Marker at Long Branch Cemetery in Falls County and
14 extend to all those present sincere best wishes for a meaningful and
15 memorable event.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2392 was adopted by the House on May 13, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House