

By: Miles

H.R. No. 2974

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sam Houston State University is recognizing the
2 distinguished career of the late William R. Powell by naming the
3 school's Student Health and Counseling Center in his honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Powell began his tenure at Sam Houston State as
5 an assistant dean in the Student Life Office in 1972, becoming the
6 first African American hired by the university in an administrative
7 position; he played an integral role in the development of the
8 Student Judicial System with the Texas State University System and
9 served as a mentor and advisor to a host of students and student
10 organizations; a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he was
11 instrumental in establishing the Theta Mu chapter of the fraternity
12 on the campus; and

13 WHEREAS, Dean Powell's exceptional skill and commitment
14 earned him increased responsibility as associate dean of student
15 life, a position he held from 1977 until his retirement from the
16 university in 1987; during that time, he worked closely with the
17 Housing Department, University Police, and President's Cabinet to
18 ensure that the interests of students were foremost in their
19 day-to-day decision-making; he was a driving force in the
20 development of the University Counseling Center and also shared his
21 insights on numerous university committees; and

22 WHEREAS, Known for his wisdom and unwavering concern for
23 students, Dean Powell encouraged young people to follow their
24 dreams and to give generously of their time and talents to benefit

1 the wider community; guided by that principle, he served the
2 citizens of Huntsville as a board member for the local Lions Club
3 and Habitat for Humanity; in addition, he was a deacon at both
4 Friendship Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, and he was
5 actively involved in the campaign to fund the Dr. Martin Luther
6 King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.; Dean Powell passed away on
7 March 12, 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, William Powell made a positive and indelible impact
9 at the university he served and in the lives of the young people who
10 benefited from his guidance and leadership, and the naming of the
11 William R. Powell Student Health and Counseling Center provides a
12 fitting tribute to his contributions; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the William
15 R. Powell Student Health and Counseling Center at Sam Houston State
16 University and pay tribute to the life and career of this esteemed
17 administrator.