

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 826

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Emmitt Thomas received a fitting tribute for his  
2 singular football career, both as a player and a coach, in 2016,  
3 when he was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and  
4 the Black College Football Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on June 3, 1943, Emmitt Thomas first  
6 established himself as a multitalented athlete at Marshall High  
7 School in Angleton, where he competed on the football, basketball,  
8 and baseball teams; he later played quarterback and wide receiver  
9 for three years at Bishop College, and in 1966, he signed with the  
10 Kansas City Chiefs as an undrafted free agent; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas spent his entire 13-year NFL playing  
12 career as a cornerback for the Chiefs, and along the way, he  
13 cemented his place in the pantheon of the league's all-time greats;  
14 he appeared in Super Bowl I in 1967 in a loss against the Green Bay  
15 Packers, and he helped return the team to the championship game in  
16 1970, where it clinched the Super Bowl IV title over the Minnesota  
17 Vikings; in addition, the defensive juggernaut was selected to the  
18 Pro Bowl five times and earned All-Pro First Team and Second Team  
19 honors three times each; upon his retirement in 1978, his career  
20 total of 58 interceptions represented a franchise record; and

21 WHEREAS, This notable Texan went on to build a second storied  
22 NFL career as a coach; he worked as a wide receivers and tight ends  
23 coach for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1981 to 1985 and then as a  
24 secondary coach for the Washington Redskins for nine seasons,

1 during which he helped guide the team to victories in Super Bowls  
2 XXII and XXVI; he later enjoyed stints as a defensive coordinator  
3 with the Philadelphia Eagles, the Green Bay Packers, and the  
4 Minnesota Vikings; he was hired as an assistant coach by the Atlanta  
5 Falcons in 2002, and eight years later, he returned to the Kansas  
6 City Chiefs as a defensive backs coach, a position he continues to  
7 hold to this day; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of a professional career spanning  
9 half a century, Mr. Thomas has been accorded a host of prestigious  
10 honors; he was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Fame in 1986, the  
11 Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in  
12 2009, and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, and Kansas City  
13 has retired his number 18 jersey; and

14 WHEREAS, Among the most prominent and enduring figures in NFL  
15 history, Emmitt Thomas has inspired generations of football fans  
16 across the Lone Star State and beyond, and it is indeed a pleasure  
17 to commemorate these well-deserved hall of fame honors; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby congratulate Emmitt Thomas on his induction into  
21 both the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and the Black College  
22 Football Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2016 and extend to  
23 him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mr. Thomas as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
26 House of Representatives.