86R5788 CJM-F

By:  Davis of Harris H.R. No. 266

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Congregation Emanu El in Houston is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1944, Congregation Emanu El was, according to its founding rabbi, Robert I. Kahn, "born of a cry for freedom of pulpit and pew, a concern for K'lal Israel, the faith of Israel, the land of Israel and the mission of Israel to bring light into a dark world"; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, Congregation Emanu El moved into what has been recognized as one of the most innovative and creative buildings in the country; designed by congregant Lenard Gabert and architectural firm MacKie & Kamrath in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright, the building was formally dedicated on September 9, 1949; and

WHEREAS, Originally a congregation of 190 families in 1944, Congregation Emanu El has grown into one of the largest synagogues in the Union for Reform Judaism under the guidance of Rabbi Kahn and Rabbi Roy A. Walter, who took over in 1978; the congregation is currently led by Rabbi Oren J. Hayon; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Emanu El, which means "God be with us" in Hebrew, has continued to make a visible and consequential impact on Houston's moral, spiritual, cultural, and intellectual life; the synagogue has been a leader in many areas of social action and welfare, from serving the blind and feeding the hungry to supporting the civil rights movement and working across faiths to bring about change; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Emanu El has long served as a source of inspiration and guidance to those who worship there, and its continued existence is a tribute to the unwavering commitment of its members, both past and present; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of Congregation Emanu El and extend to its congregants sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Congregation Emanu El as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.