

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 201

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units  
2 are visiting the State Capitol on February 26, 2019, in celebration  
3 of Texas NAACP Day; and

4           WHEREAS, For more than a century, the NAACP has played a  
5 crucial role in the struggle for equal rights and justice; the  
6 organization was founded in 1909 and grew rapidly as it set agendas  
7 and developed tactics that would propel the civil rights movement  
8 through the 20th century; and

9           WHEREAS, The NAACP has drawn its strength as a grassroots  
10 organization from a membership based in hundreds of communities  
11 across the nation, and its local branches have been key to its  
12 effectiveness; in Texas, the first chapter was established in El  
13 Paso in 1915, and nine more cities in the state gained branches  
14 three years later; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1937, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units  
16 was established under the leadership of A. Maceo Smith, and the  
17 organization gained traction as a sustained, statewide movement;  
18 the conference expanded rapidly during and after World War II,  
19 reaching a membership of almost 30,000 people in more than 100  
20 branches; early victories included Supreme Court cases that ended  
21 Democratic white primary elections and secured the admission of  
22 Heman M. Sweatt to The University of Texas School of Law; public  
23 school desegregation cases dragged on longer, tied up in the courts  
24 for years while the NAACP confronted government retaliation; and

1           WHEREAS, Texas branches of the NAACP have continued to build  
2 on the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Era; initiatives include  
3 litigating redistricting cases and targeting discriminatory  
4 practices in employment, housing, and the criminal justice system;  
5 since 1991, that work has been guided by Gary Bledsoe, president of  
6 the Texas NAACP; and

7           WHEREAS, For more than eight decades, the Texas State  
8 Conference of NAACP Units has advanced the cause of social justice,  
9 and through their dedication as champions of equal rights, members  
10 across the state are furthering the vital goals of this  
11 trailblazing organization; now, therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2019, as Texas NAACP Day  
14 at the State Capitol and extend to the members of the Texas State  
15 Conference of NAACP Units sincere best wishes for a memorable and  
16 productive visit to Austin.