

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 217

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Convict Leasing and Labor Project is dedicated
2 to documenting past and present instances of forced labor; and

3 WHEREAS, Forced labor has a long and shameful history in our
4 country, and CLLP works to educate the public about earlier abuses
5 under slavery and convict leasing; the group also studies current
6 forced-labor arrangements in U.S. prisons and aims to abolish these
7 last vestiges of involuntary servitude in order to bring the United
8 States into compliance with Article 4 of the Universal Declaration
9 of Human Rights; and

10 WHEREAS, In Fort Bend County, CLLP has been active in
11 addressing the legacy of the convict leasing system, which replaced
12 slavery as a means of exploitation and repression; CLLP activist
13 and historian Reginald Moore played a key role in the discovery of
14 the skeletal remains of 95 African Americans, identified as victims
15 of convict leasing, who were interred in unmarked graves on a
16 property owned by the Fort Bend Independent School District in
17 Sugar Land; and

18 WHEREAS, CLLP is working with the school district and the
19 City of Sugar Land to develop an appropriate memorial for these
20 victims of convict leasing; in addition, the group is seeking to
21 establish a permanent museum of slavery and convict leasing; it
22 also networks with prison reform activists and organizations
23 striving to end the contemporary practice of forced labor in
24 prisons across the country; and

1 WHEREAS, Through its tireless efforts, the Convict Leasing
2 and Labor Project is helping to uncover a chapter of our state's
3 history that has been too long ignored or forgotten, and the group's
4 advocacy brings to light the tragic ways in which that bitter
5 heritage continues to resonate; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
7 Legislature hereby honor the Convict Leasing and Labor Project for
8 its exceptional contributions and extend to its members sincere
9 best wishes for continued success in their endeavors; and, be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.