

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 266

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Congregation Emanu El in Houston is celebrating the  
2 75th anniversary of its founding in 2019; and

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

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

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

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

1 bring about change; and

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

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

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