

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 650

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the ninth anniversary of the installation of the 19th-Century Black Legislators' Monument at the Texas State Cemetery; and

**WHEREAS**, In March of 2010, the Texas State Cemetery honored the 52 African American men who served in the Texas Legislature or participated in Texas constitutional conventions, or both, in the years following emancipation; and

**WHEREAS**, At the close of the Civil War, cities in Texas enforced codes to restrict the rights of African Americans; the federal government intervened to remove the restrictions, and between 1867 and 1900, 52 African American Texans worked to help structure the state's laws and constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, These pioneering statesmen represented a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and occupations; they strived to safeguard voting rights and educational opportunities, and they worked to reform the prison system, end railroad car segregation and the poll tax, and protect both skilled and agricultural workers; they lost their voice once again around the turn of the century, when discriminatory laws were reinstated to exclude African American citizens from political life; and

**WHEREAS**, The installation of the 19th-Century Black Legislators' Monument began with the research of Larry Thomas, who went on to serve as the monument's project director; those honored by the monument provided a courageous voice during a tumultuous period in our history, and their contributions to our state will not be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize the significance of the 19th-Century Black Legislators' Monument at the Texas State Cemetery and extend appreciation to all who contributed to the monument's creation and installation; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a tribute to all who participated in this special project.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2019.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate