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By:  Stephenson H.C.R. No. 9

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Wharton County Historical Commission is hosting the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker at the site of the Wharton Training School on November 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1896 as the Wharton Colored School, the institution was created to provide a high-quality education for local African American students at all grade levels; originally situated on Milam Street, the school received a grant in 1927 from the Rosenwald Fund to build a larger facility on the corner of Outlar Street and what is now Martin Luther King Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Renamed the Negro Training School, the new building was destroyed by a fire in December 1936; classes were subsequently held in the livestock barns at the county fairgrounds until a new, seven-room structure was finished in 1937; by 1939, African American students from all over the county were attending the school, now rechristened the Wharton County Training School, and that same year, C. W. Dawson became principal, a position he would hold for nearly three decades; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, a new brick building with more classrooms and the school's first science labs was added, enabling the institution to offer a full curriculum that included advanced science, home economics, art, and music, and in 1962, the football team took the AA League state championship; over the years, the school served as a community center and the venue for numerous events; many graduates returned to the campus to work as teachers or administrators, and since the facility's closure in 1968, the members of the Wharton Training High School Alumni and Ex-Students Association have continued to preserve the school's rich heritage; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the Wharton Training School contributed to the intellectual and social development of generations of African American students, and it is indeed fitting that its notable legacy in Wharton County be recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker at the site of the Wharton Training School and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Wharton County Historical Commission as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.