87S31203 CJM-D

By:  Darby H.R. No. 152

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Howard College celebrated its 75th anniversary with a gala event at its main campus in Big Spring on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Howard County Junior College District was established in November 1945, and the following year, 148 students enrolled, meeting for their first classes on September 30 in the hospital unit of the former Big Spring Army Air Force Bombardier School; the institution was admitted to the Association of Texas Colleges in 1947 and later earned full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; in 1951, trustees passed a resolution to admit students regardless of race, creed, or color, and that same year, the college moved to its current campus; and

WHEREAS, Renamed Howard College in 1974, the school continued to grow and thrive, and over the years, a number of new buildings and programs were added, including the SouthWest College for the Deaf, the country's first such institution of its kind; today, under the leadership of President Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Howard also offers courses at its San Angelo and Lamesa campuses, as well as at the Big Spring Federal Correctional Institution and the Eden Detention Center; proudly serving a diverse student body, the college is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, and it has been ranked among the top Military Friendly Schools in the nation; and

WHEREAS, In commemoration of the college's 75th anniversary, the Howard community has held various events since November 2020, including several ribbon cuttings and ground breakings on the Big Spring Campus; in January 2021, the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce hosted a grand opening for the school's newly renovated Cactus Room, which now features state-of-the-art technology for lectures and special events; and

WHEREAS, For three quarters of a century, Howard College has provided students with important opportunities in higher education, and in so doing, it has enriched the lives of countless Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of Howard College and extend to all those affiliated with the institution sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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