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By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 1324

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Reginald Wayne Moore of Houston passed away on July 3, 2020, at the age of 60, leaving his loved ones and his many colleagues and admirers to reflect on his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of social justice and racial healing; and

WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Reginald Moore was the son of Melvin Moore Roberts and Jerline Lee Moore and the brother of four siblings, Anthony, Sonya, Bridgette, and Cassandra; in 1978, he graduated from Jack Yates High School, where he was a talented member of the football team, and he went on to continue his studies at Northwestern State University of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore served as a state correctional officer from 1985 to 1988 and also worked for a time as a longshoreman and a real estate agent and broker; while a guard at the Jester State Prison Farm outside of Sugar Land, he began researching the history of convict leasing, a form of forced labor that was used to exploit Black inmates after the abolishment of slavery; following his retirement, he dedicated himself full-time to the project, but he had little success in bringing attention to the brutality of the system until 2018, when a mass unmarked grave containing the remains of 95 African American convict laborers was unearthed on the grounds of a former state prison farm in Fort Bend County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore's decades-long research efforts were validated by the discovery of the so-called "Sugar Land 95," which made headlines internationally; that same year, he founded the Convict Leasing and Labor Project, and he continued to collaborate and share his findings with other historians and researchers; one of his proudest achievements was his persuasive testimony before the Texas Board of Education that led to the approval of the state's first African American studies course as a high school elective; and

WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father, Mr. Moore was blessed with the love and support of his wife of 21 years, Marilyn Collins Moore, and he cherished his five children, Reginald Jeremy, El Xemenes Love, Tirhakah Tarique Love, Mario Hinkle, and Rhae Hinkle, as well as his nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Through his uncompromising quest for the truth, Reginald Moore played a vital role in addressing the insidious legacy of convict leasing and restoring dignity to its victims, and his memory will forever be treasured by the many people whose lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Reginald Wayne Moore and extend deepest sympathy to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Reginald Moore.