

By: Moody

H.R. No. 313

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than four decades, every U.S. president has  
2 declared the annual observance of Education and Sharing Day in  
3 honor of the birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson and his  
4 contributions to education; and

5           WHEREAS, One of the most celebrated figures in 20th century  
6 Judaism, Rabbi Schneerson was born in Ukraine in 1902; he  
7 demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for religious scholarship at a  
8 young age, mastering the entire Talmud and many of its commentaries  
9 by the age of 17; in the 1920s, he became part of the inner circle of  
10 the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement  
11 in Judaism, and he married the Rebbe's daughter, Chaya Mushka;  
12 forced to flee Berlin and later Paris because of Nazi  
13 anti-Semitism, the couple settled in New York City in 1941; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1951, Rabbi Schneerson officially succeeded his  
15 father-in-law as the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and over the next 44 years,  
16 he built the movement into a worldwide community of 200,000  
17 members; a strong advocate for children and education, he believed  
18 that schools should stress both academic achievement and character  
19 building, and he established several thousand Orthodox Jewish  
20 schools and educational centers around the globe before his passing  
21 in 1994; and

22           WHEREAS, In recognition of Rabbi Schneerson's advocacy,  
23 President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first Education and Sharing  
24 Day in 1978, and the tradition has continued each year since; the

1 rabbi's birthday is celebrated on 11 Nissan of the Jewish  
2 liturgical calendar, or four days before Passover, and in 2021 it  
3 falls on March 24; his accolades further include a Congressional  
4 Gold Medal, which he received posthumously in 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, In the midst of a global pandemic that has disrupted  
6 traditional models of education across the nation, Education and  
7 Sharing Day represents an important opportunity for Texans to  
8 reflect not just on how to foster academic achievement in young  
9 people but also on the core values that should be imparted to  
10 children and adults alike; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby recognize March 24, 2021, as Education and  
13 Sharing Day.