

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1324

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Reginald Wayne Moore of Houston passed away on July
2 3, 2020, at the age of 60, leaving his loved ones and his many
3 colleagues and admirers to reflect on his unwavering dedication to
4 the pursuit of social justice and racial healing; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Moore's decades-long research efforts were
23 validated by the discovery of the so-called "Sugar Land 95," which
24 made headlines internationally; that same year, he founded the

1 Convict Leasing and Labor Project, and he continued to collaborate
2 and share his findings with other historians and researchers; one
3 of his proudest achievements was his persuasive testimony before
4 the Texas Board of Education that led to the approval of the state's
5 first African American studies course as a high school elective;
6 and

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

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

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

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