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By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 576

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Members of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units are visiting the State Capitol on April 4, 2023, in celebration of Texas NAACP Day; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century, the NAACP has played a crucial role in the struggle for equal rights and justice; the organization was founded in 1909 and grew rapidly as it set agendas and developed tactics that would propel the civil rights movement through the 20th century; early members of the group included W. E. B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey, and Ida B. Wells; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP has drawn its strength as a grassroots organization from a membership based in hundreds of communities across the nation, and its local branches have been key to its effectiveness; in Texas, the first chapter was established in El Paso in 1915, and four more cities in the state gained branches three years later; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units was established under the leadership of A. Maceo Smith, and the organization gained traction as a sustained, statewide movement; the conference expanded rapidly during and after World War II, reaching a membership of almost 30,000 people in over 100 branches; early victories included Supreme Court cases that ended Democratic White primary elections and secured the admission of Heman M. Sweatt to The University of Texas School of Law; public school desegregation cases dragged on longer, tied up in the courts for years while the NAACP confronted government retaliation; and

WHEREAS, Texas branches of the NAACP have continued to build on the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Era; initiatives include litigating redistricting cases and targeting discriminatory practices in employment, housing, and the criminal justice system; since 1991, that work has been guided by Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP; and

WHEREAS, For more than eight and a half decades, the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units has advanced the cause of social justice, and through their dedication as champions of equal rights, members across the state are furthering the vital goals of this trailblazing organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 4, 2023, as Texas NAACP Day at the State Capitol and extend to the members of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units sincere best wishes for a memorable and productive visit to Austin.