88R25523 BK-D

By:  Bowers H.R. No. 1311

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has a rich cultural heritage, and its cemeteries serve as a tangible link to its history; and

WHEREAS, As Texas has grown and become urbanized, some of the state's cemeteries have been lost or forgotten, and their accompanying grave markers, if they were ever placed, have decayed or have gone missing; remembering and identifying these sites is vital to understanding the lives and legacies of those interred in them; and

WHEREAS, Across the state, there are a number of well-known unmarked cemeteries, including the Freedmen's Cemetery in Dallas, which served as a burial place for formerly enslaved people; there are numerous other cemeteries that were used for the burial of African Americans and Black Americans who lived under segregation, including Horst Plantation Cemetery in Austin and Oakwood Cemetery in Tyler; and

WHEREAS, Many cemeteries remain unknown and unmarked, making it difficult to preserve them, and the observance of Unmarked Cemetery Day on May 3, 2023, serves to raise awareness of the need to identify and protect these important historical sites and to honor the memories of those Texans whose final resting places have been forgotten; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 3, 2023, as Unmarked Cemetery Day and commend all those who are dedicated to the documentation and preservation of Texas's historic cemeteries.