

By: Cole

H.R. No. 349

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The oldest higher education institution in Austin,
2 Huston-Tillotson University, is marking its 150th anniversary on
3 February 28, 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, The historically Black university traces its roots
5 back to 1875 when it was originally founded as Tillotson Collegiate
6 and Normal Institute in honor of the Reverend George Jeffrey
7 Tillotson; early on, the college benefited from the support of the
8 Freedmen's Aid Society of the American Missionary Association, and
9 in 1909, it became known as Tillotson College; the school went on to
10 serve as a junior college and a women's college before becoming a
11 senior, coeducational institution in 1931; and

12 WHEREAS, Samuel Huston College was first organized by the
13 Reverend George Warren Richardson in 1876, when he leased St. Paul
14 Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas; the school relocated to
15 Austin in 1878 and was housed in what is now Wesley United Methodist
16 Church; renamed in 1887 in honor of benefactor Samuel Huston of
17 Iowa, it was approved as a senior college by the Texas Department of
18 Education in 1926; and

19 WHEREAS, Located less than one mile apart in East Austin, the
20 two schools merged in 1952 to become the sole provider of higher
21 education for African Americans in Central Texas until *Brown*
22 *v. Board of Education* was decided two years later; the institution
23 officially changed its name to Huston-Tillotson University in 2005,
24 and today, it boasts an enrollment of more than 1,000 students on

1 its 23-acre campus and offers a wide range of undergraduate
2 degrees, as well as graduate degrees in business administration and
3 educational leadership; the university is a member of the Red River
4 Athletic Conference and is ably guided by president and CEO
5 Dr. Melva K. Wallace; and

6 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Huston-Tillotson University
7 has provided its students with an education that has enriched them
8 both academically and personally, and in so doing, it has made
9 important contributions to the Lone Star State and beyond; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of
13 Huston-Tillotson University and extend to the school's faculty,
14 students, staff, and alumni sincere best wishes for the future;
15 and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the university as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.