

By: Simmons

H.R. No. 621

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ivy L. Walls of Houston is being honored with a 2025
2 Outstanding Texan Award from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The owner of Ivy Leaf Farms, Ms. Walls is dedicated
5 to improving the health of her fellow Sunnyside residents; she
6 became a third-generation farmer after earning her bachelor's
7 degree in biology from Prairie View A&M University and beginning a
8 career in the medical field; during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was
9 employed as an infection preventionist by the Memorial Hermann
10 Health System; she understood the importance of good nutrition in
11 battling illness and recognized a serious need in Sunnyside, a
12 USDA-designated food desert in which few residents had ready access
13 to a grocery store with fresh produce; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Walls started growing vegetables in her
15 parents' backyard to give to neighbors; finding great satisfaction
16 in that endeavor, she began cultivating five acres owned by her
17 parents and quit her job to establish Ivy Leaf Farms in 2020; using
18 her entrepreneurial skills, she launched a GoFundMe on social
19 media; she also received a \$10,000 grant from a joint initiative by
20 Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and the NAACP; building community
21 connections, the farm hosts events and offers opportunities for
22 neighbors to get in touch with nature and learn about sustainable
23 growing practices and nutrient-dense foods; in addition, staff
24 members visit schools to help set up community gardens that will

1 encourage interest in agriculture among the next generation;
2 Ms. Walls cofounded Black Farmer Box, which provides locally
3 sourced produce to food desert residents, and then Fresh Houwse
4 Grocery, a bodega-style business that features the products of
5 local farmers and serves as a neighborhood gathering place; and

6 WHEREAS, Through her vision and commitment to improving the
7 well-being of her fellow Houstonians, Ivy Walls has set an
8 inspiring example of civic-minded entrepreneurship, and she is
9 indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate Ivy L. Walls on her receipt of a
12 2025 Outstanding Texan Award from the Texas Legislative Black
13 Caucus and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be
14 it further

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