

By: Cole

H.R. No. 1480

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the
2 unveiling of the African American Legislators Monument in the Texas
3 State Cemetery, providing a fitting opportunity to reflect on this
4 remarkable monument's impact and the history it represents; and

5 WHEREAS, In March 2010, a monument in honor of the African
6 Americans who served in the Texas Legislature between 1868 and 1900
7 and in the Constitutional Conventions of 1868-1869 and 1875 was
8 unveiled on the grounds of the Texas State Cemetery; and

9 WHEREAS, After the emancipation of slaves in June 1865, Black
10 Codes were passed by several cities in Texas to restrict the rights
11 of newly freed African Americans; it took the intervention of
12 Congress and the U.S. military in 1867 to allow their transition to
13 freedom to begin in earnest; and

14 WHEREAS, By the end of the 19th century, 52 African Americans
15 in Texas had served in 14 legislatures and 2 constitutional
16 conventions; before discriminatory laws and practices around the
17 turn of the 20th century succeeded in excluding blacks once again
18 from political life, these men engaged in the most pressing issues
19 of the day and worked for the betterment of their communities and
20 the benefit of all Texans; and

21 WHEREAS, Among the critical needs these black legislators
22 addressed were the safeguarding of voting rights for African
23 Americans, the elimination of widespread violence against blacks,
24 the opportunity for educational advancement, the protection of

1 skilled and agricultural workers, the reform of the prison system,
2 and the defense of the frontier; black legislators also fought to
3 end segregation in railroad passenger cars and to eliminate the
4 poll tax; their lasting achievements included the creation of Texas
5 Agricultural and Mechanical College and Prairie View Normal
6 Institute; and

7 WHEREAS, Representing a wide variety of backgrounds,
8 experiences, and occupations, these dedicated public servants
9 advocated tirelessly in behalf of civil rights for all Texans, and
10 the African American Legislators Monument at the Texas State
11 Cemetery pays fitting tribute to their memory; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the
15 unveiling of the African American Legislators Monument in the Texas
16 State Cemetery and extend sincere appreciation to all those who
17 played a part in bringing the project to fruition.