HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association, an affiliate chapter of the National Bar Association, was founded in 1955 to address the needs of Black lawyers and the legal needs of the Black community in general; at the time the organization was established, Black lawyers in the Houston area were not permitted to join the Houston Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, The association's history reflects its continued desire to address racial injustice after its founder, Robert W. Hainsworth, challenged and fought against the evils of racial discrimination that were prevalent in his day; he challenged the "one chair" rule in the county law library, which allowed only one particular chair to be used by a "colored" lawyer, the rule in the district courts that all "black cases" would be handled at the end of the court's docket, and the Houston Bar Association's rule of nonadmission of Black lawyers; several other pioneer members were also involved in litigation that resulted in the outlawing of segregation in the Houston Independent School District, the prohibition of segregated service in the county courthouse cafeteria, and the changing of voting practices; these persons included Weldon Berry, Matthew Plummer, Francis Williams, Heulean Lott, Robeson King, and the late Honorable Henry Doyle; and

WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association continues to provide its lawyers a forum and an opportunity to address various issues that affect the Black community; the association also
H.C.R. No. 206

conducts continuing legal education seminars, evaluates judicial candidates, and distributes information of interest to its membership in an effort to foster the network necessary for professional growth and development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and Senate of the 79th Texas Legislature hereby recognize and congratulate the Houston Lawyers Association on its 50th anniversary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Houston Lawyers Association as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

Thompson
H.C.R. No. 206

David Dewhurst
President of the Senate

Jim Caffel
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 206 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 206 was adopted by the Senate on May 20, 2005, by a viva-voce vote.

Larry Sann
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 18 JUNE 05

Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:20 A.M., 18 JUNE 2005

Roger Williams
Secretary of State