



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 70-10

**The Student Senate
70th Session
Texas A&M University**

Introduced By: Constituency Affairs Chair, Gentill Abdulla, Off-Campus Caucus
Dr. Daniel Pugh, Vice President of Student Affairs
Joshua Morris
Kennedy Washington
Krystal Parks
Jonathan Strange
Adaora Atuegbu
Otisha Byrd
Joel Barnes
Ashley Turnage
Temiloluwa Taiwo
Jackie Mak
Jose Fragosa

Sponsored By: Senator Samuel-Austin Evans, Off-Campus Caucus

Action Taken _____

PASSED

Certified By: _____

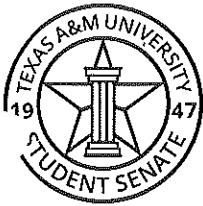
Jasmine Wang
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved: _____

Bobby Brooks
Student Body President

Matthew Gaines Statue Commemoration Bill

"A bill advocating for the creation of a statue commemorating former Texas Senator Matthew Gaines on Texas A&M University's main campus"

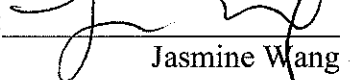


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Whereas(1): The history of Aggieland is filled with contributions from people of color that haven't been recognized for the service they've done within our community; and,

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By: 
Jasmine Wang
Speaker of the Senate

Whereas(2): The Morrill-Land Grant Act was vital to the creation and founding of Texas A&M University on the land it stands at today; and,

Whereas(3): Matthew Gaines was a former slave who served as a Texas state senator in the 12th and 13th legislatures, representing Washington County; and,

Whereas(4): Senator Gaines was a firm supporter of education and worked tirelessly to pass legislation that enabled Texas to take advantage of the Morrill-Land Grant Act, an Act of U.S. Congress that provided grants of land to states to finance the establishment of colleges specializing in "agriculture and the mechanic arts"; and,

Whereas(5): This legislation legally established the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas – making Senator Gaines a key player in the establishment of modern-day Texas A&M University; and,

Whereas(6): There are several statues and memorials on Texas A&M University's campus that honor important persons contributions to the University and the Aggie Spirit such as the statue of Sullivan Ross in Academic Plaza, the statue of James E. Rudder at the end of Military Walk, the statue of J.V. "Pinky" Wilson, the composer of the Aggie War Hymn, on the west side of the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center, the E. King Gill statues in front of Kyle Field and Rudder Plaza, the H.J. "Hank" Gruy Fountain near the Hagler Center, and the sculpture of Robert J. Kleberg Jr. in front of the Kleberg Center; and,

Whereas(7): Matthew Gaines is recognized by the Texas House of Representatives as a courageous advocate for genuine democracy, a man of exceptional public service, and one of the foremost African American leaders in Texas History; and,



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Whereas(8): Texas A&M University has core values that include Selfless Service, Leadership, and Excellence; and,

Whereas(9): There have been several efforts in the past to create a memorial of some sort to honor Gaines, including the Matthew Gaines Memorial Committee formed on the initiative of the Aggie College Republicans in the mid 1990s which declared support of forming a statue of the State Senator; and,

Whereas(10): Our University has shown through initiatives such as “Vision 2020” and their response to incidences of racial intolerance and violence a commitment to “attract and nurture a more ethnically, culturally, and geographically diverse faculty, staff, and student body” (Imperative 6 of Vision 2020); and,

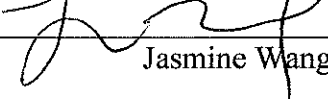
Whereas(11): A statue honoring Matthew Gaines, a former African American state senator, for his role in the creation of Texas A&M University could further this goal, and demonstrate Texas A&M’s pride in our unique origins and diverse past; and,

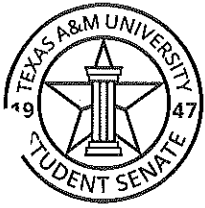
Whereas(12): There are four identified locations that the statue of Matthew Gaines can be placed on campus, including but not limited to the South side of the new Student Services Building, the Eastern side of the Academic Services Building, and the side of the Administration building facing Texas Ave.

**Therefore
Let it be**

Enacted(1): That the Student Senate request a statue commemorating Matthew Gaines be built on the main campus of Texas A&M; and

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By:  Jasmine Wang



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Speaker of the Senate

**Let it be
Further**

Enacted(2): A copy of this bill be sent to:

Mr. Michael K. Young, President of Texas A&M University

Mr. John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System

Blanca Lupiani, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity