Founder’s Day, originally recognized on March 3, 1947, was later altered due to the rich history of Texas Southern University (TSU). What began as a $2,800 loan, the Houston Public School District agreed to fund two segregated community colleges, thus the Houston Colored Junior College was born in 1927. In 1934, the school was changed to a four-year college and birthed a new name, Houston College for Negroes. The college added a Graduate Program in 1943 and grew to obtain 53-acres in the Third Ward District of Houston with help of philanthropist Hugh Roy Cullen. Originally located in Jack Yates High School, the college raised enough money to construct its first building, the T.M. Fairchild Building in 1946.

When mail carrier Marion Sweatt was denied admission to the University of Texas Law School, he filed a lawsuit with the help of NAACP that was passed by the Texas Legislature to provide an establishment for a Negro law school in Houston. Texas lawmakers initially looked to place to school at Prairie View A&M, but the decision was made to use Houston College for Negroes as its founding site.

Due to Marion Sweatt a Mail Carrier who was denied admission to the University of Texas Law School and later filed suit with the help of the NAACP, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 140 providing for the establishment of a Negro law school in Houston and the creation of a university to surround it. Texas Lawmakers were initially looking at placing the Law School at Prairie View A&M but the decision was made to use the site of Houston College for Negroes, with its new campus in the heart of the large and fast-growing black population. Based on the Separate but equal concept the intention of the Senate Bill 140 and House Bill 788 was to create a Negro University on the same level as the University of Texas in Austin.

Placed in the heart of a large and fast-growing Black population, the Senate Bill 140 and House Bill 788 created a Negro college on the same level as University of Texas in Austin based on the separate but equal concept.

In 1947, the school opened with 2,300 students and the two schools, one division, and one college - the Law School, the Pharmacy School, the Vocational Division, and the College of Arts and Sciences. By 195,1 the students had petitioned to change the name of the school and remove the “for Negroes” and Texas Southern University was born. Currently, Texas Southern University is staffed by approximately 1,000 faculty members and support personnel. More than 9,500 students, representing ethnically and culturally diverse backgrounds, are currently enrolled at the university.

As students usually enjoy the free food and music on the yard many, especially new students like myself, don’t know the history of Founders Day.