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H.C.R. No. 67

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The many and diverse contributions made by
2 Tejanos--Texans of Spanish, Mexican, African, and indigenous
3 descent--have been fundamental to the history and heritage of Texas
4 for more than three centuries; and

5 WHEREAS, Tejano men and women were the founders of the
6 state's oldest permanent settlements, including the cities of San
7 Antonio, Nacogdoches, Victoria, Goliad, and El Paso, and they were
8 the first to name many of our state's waterways and natural
9 features; and

10 WHEREAS, Legendary Tejanos of the Navarro, Ruiz, Menchaca,
11 Arocha, and Seguin families played an integral part in the effort to
12 settle Texas and negotiated peace with the Comanches and other
13 indigenous peoples; on April 6, 1813, Tejanos were the first
14 residents to declare for an independent Texas, and at the Battle of
15 Medina that same year, they gave their lives in a bloody engagement
16 with a Spanish royalist army that remains the deadliest clash in the
17 history of Texas; moreover, in an act that was an important prelude
18 to the Texas Revolution, Tejanos were the first to rise in defense
19 of the Mexican Constitution of 1824, and such prominent figures as
20 José Antonio Navarro and José Francisco Ruiz were signers of the
21 Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836; and

22 WHEREAS, Many Tejanos risked their lives and livelihood
23 during the Texas Revolution, and its heroes include Gregorio
24 Esparza and José Toribio Losoya, both of whom died at the Alamo, as

1 well as members of their families, who were some of the few
2 survivors of the battle; among the others who stepped forward in the
3 fight for independence were the troops led by Plácido Benavides,
4 who fought bravely across South Texas, and the men of Juan Seguín's
5 company, who helped secure the decisive victory at the Battle of San
6 Jacinto; later, Adina Emilia De Zavala led the effort to preserve
7 historic structures at the Alamo so that the legacy of that battle
8 and the entire revolution could be better appreciated by future
9 generations; and

10 WHEREAS, Devoted to the concepts of liberty and equality,
11 numerous Tejanos were early and powerful advocates for free speech,
12 freedom of the press, and public education in Texas; in the 20th
13 century, that tradition was continued by such individuals as the
14 journalist Jovita Idár, who called for women's suffrage and
15 campaigned against lynching, the restaurateur and civic leader
16 Felix Tijerina, who pushed for bilingual education, and attorney
17 John J. Herrera, who won important legal cases related to school
18 segregation, workplace discrimination, and other civil rights
19 issues; and

20 WHEREAS, Countless Tejanos have served with great
21 distinction in our nation's military; the Medal of Honor, America's
22 highest military commendation for valor, was awarded to seven
23 Tejanos during World War II, two during the Korean War, and three
24 during the Vietnam War; physician, activist, and World War II
25 veteran Hector P. Garcia founded the American GI Forum of Texas to
26 champion the rights of former Hispanic service members; and

27 WHEREAS, The culture of the Lone Star State is inextricably

1 linked with the contributions of Tejanos; they were the first to
2 introduce rodeos, expert horsemanship, and the raising of longhorn
3 cattle, which became central to the state's western identity; in
4 regard to food, Tejanos combined the flavors and ingredients of
5 Mexico and the United States to create Tex-Mex, the state's most
6 iconic cuisine; Texas music is unimaginable without the
7 contributions of such great Tejano artists as Lydia Mendoza, Flaco
8 Jiménez, Rosita Fernández, and Selena, and the musical styles they
9 helped popularize range from romantic ballads to corridos that tell
10 stories of adventure and resistance; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout the state's history, Tejano men and women
12 have been champions of social and political progress while exerting
13 a tremendous influence on our way of life; deeply devoted to Texas,
14 they have overcome injustice and discrimination to play an
15 instrumental role in the epic saga of the Lone Star State, and it is
16 indeed fitting that their contributions be officially honored; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby designate April 6 as Tejano Day, an observance that
20 coincides with the date in 1813 when Tejano leaders issued the first
21 declaration of Texas independence; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
23 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
24 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
25 passed by the legislature.