

By: Kitzman

H.R. No. 492

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents are joining together to celebrate
2 Austin County Day at the State Capitol on March 8, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Situated between the Post Oak Savannah and the
4 Coastal Prairie regions, the Austin County area became part of
5 Stephen F. Austin's first colony in the early 1820s; the town of San
6 Felipe de Austin was the administrative seat of the colony, and it
7 played an important role in the Texas Revolution, hosting the
8 conventions of 1832 and 1833 and briefly serving as the capital of
9 the provisional government; and

10 WHEREAS, Austin County was created by the Constitution of
11 1836 and was formally organized a year later; San Felipe was the
12 county seat until 1848, when the county government was moved to the
13 new community of Bellville; and

14 WHEREAS, Blessed with an abundance of water, grassland, and
15 forests, the county attracted settlers engaged in agriculture, and
16 a number of towns grew substantially during the 19th century,
17 including Bellville and Wallis and the railroad towns of Sealy and
18 Kenney; German and Czech immigrants also arrived in Austin County,
19 and their influence is felt throughout the region in the societies
20 that they established and the many communities they founded; the
21 cultural mosaic of the county has been further enriched by
22 immigrants from Mexico, the largest foreign-born group to settle
23 there in the 20th century, and by African Americans, who played a
24 fundamental role in the county's development and in the creation of

1 numerous social and religious institutions; and

2 WHEREAS, Among the prominent Texans who have resided in
3 Austin County was Gail Borden Jr., a surveyor and newspaper
4 publisher who later invented a successful process for condensing
5 milk; another early citizen, Robert Justus Kleberg, fought in the
6 Battle of San Jacinto and held several prestigious public offices;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Today, visitors and residents alike can explore the
9 county's rich heritage, preserved at the San Felipe de Austin State
10 Historic Site and in rural communities throughout the area, and
11 they enjoy hunting and fishing opportunities as well as a wealth of
12 special recreational events; and

13 WHEREAS, Honoring their history as they embrace the
14 opportunities of the future, the citizens of Austin County may
15 indeed take great pride in their unique contributions to the story
16 of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize March 8, 2023, as Austin County Day at
19 the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting
20 delegation.