

By: Goldman

H.R. No. 1196

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On March 2, 2023, Texas Independence Day, the Fort  
2 Worth Zoo hosted a celebration in honor of its newest resident, baby  
3 Asian elephant Travis, who was born on February 23, 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, Travis entered the world measuring 37 inches tall  
5 and weighing 270 pounds, making him the zoo's biggest male calf to  
6 date; continuing the tradition of new calves receiving names with  
7 strong ties to the state, Travis is the fifth Asian elephant calf  
8 born at the Fort Worth Zoo, joining his half-brother Brazos, his  
9 mother Belle, his aunt Bluebonnet, and Bowie, who now resides at the  
10 Oklahoma City Zoo; his father, Romeo, who is 30 years old, has lived  
11 at the zoo since 2015; Travis is an important addition to the  
12 family, and his bonding with his mother and family unit mimics how  
13 herds behave in the wild; and

14 WHEREAS, The oldest continuous zoo site in Texas, the Fort  
15 Worth Zoo was founded in 1909 with one lion, two bear cubs, an  
16 alligator, a coyote, a peacock, and a few rabbits; today, it is home  
17 to more than 500 species, and it brings in approximately 1 million  
18 visitors each year; moreover, it is one of only 65 zoological  
19 facilities in the world to hold the distinction of being a Humane  
20 Certified park; and

21 WHEREAS, In April 2021, the Fort Worth Zoo completed its  
22 state-of-the-art Elephant Springs habitat, which features a  
23 400,000-gallon river, a climate-controlled environment, and 15  
24 stalls to give the animals their own individual spaces; the habitat

1 represents the zoo's commitment to the conservation of Asian  
2 elephants, a critically endangered species and one of the most  
3 poached animals in the world; and

4       WHEREAS, Through his presence at the Fort Worth Zoo, Travis  
5 will provide visitors with the gift of being able to see firsthand  
6 one of the world's most magnificent creatures, and it is fitting to  
7 commend his handlers and the zoo's staff as they continue their work  
8 to advocate for this vulnerable species; now, therefore, be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby congratulate the Fort Worth Zoo on the birth of  
11 its newest elephant and extend to baby Travis a Texas-sized welcome  
12 as a new citizen of the Lone Star State; and, be it further

13       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for the Fort Worth Zoo as an expression of high regard by  
15 the Texas House of Representatives.