

By: Madden

H.C.R. No. 21

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, the year 2004 marks the 150th anniversary of the
2 founding of the Republican Party with humble beginnings at an
3 organizational meeting on March 20, 1854, in a small schoolhouse in
4 Ripon, Wisconsin, where 54 dedicated anti-slavery citizens met and
5 adopted the name "Republican" for the group of Americans committed
6 to protesting the expansion of slavery into new states proposed to
7 be carved out in what is today the western central region of the
8 continental United States; and

9 WHEREAS, a subsequent convention held "under the oaks" in
10 Jackson, Michigan, on July 6, 1854, using the "Republican" title
11 was attended by over 10,000 activists who described slavery as "a
12 great moral, social, and political evil" and moved New York
13 newspaper magnate Horace Greeley to editorialize "We should not
14 care much whether those thus united [against slavery] were
15 designated as 'Whig,' 'Free Democrat' or something else; though we
16 think some simple name like 'Republican' would more fitly designate
17 those who had united to restore the Union to its true mission of
18 champion and promulgator of Liberty rather than propagandist of
19 slavery."; and

20 WHEREAS, elections conducted later in 1854 captured numerous
21 public offices in Michigan--and in other states--clearly
22 demonstrating a remarkable electoral strength to challenge the
23 status quo of slavery legally existing in some regions of our nation
24 and it being unlawful in other areas; and

1 WHEREAS, these events laid the groundwork for the February
2 22, 1856, convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was
3 followed by the June 17, 1856, nominating convention in
4 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, announcing the Republican Party as a
5 unified political force seeking the total abolition of slavery
6 everywhere in America; and

7 WHEREAS, while the first presidential candidate of the new
8 Republican Party, retired Army officer John C. Fremont, "The
9 Trailblazer" best known for his courageous crossings of the Rocky
10 Mountains and wresting California from Mexico, went down to defeat
11 by Democrat James Buchanan in the 1856 elections, undaunted
12 Republicans continued to build their way to the successful 1860
13 election of Abraham Lincoln as 16th President of the United States;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Among the many accomplishments attributed to
16 Lincoln during his tenure in our nation's highest public office,
17 was foremost the preservation of the union of states as a perpetual
18 one--at a time when that concept was more strongly contested than at
19 any other in our 227-year history; and

20 WHEREAS, the "Grand Old Party" or "GOP" as it has been
21 nicknamed since 1888, has espoused limited government, strong
22 national defense and homeland security, personal freedom, and a
23 healthy overall business climate, and has at various times held the
24 presidency and both houses of Congress and has contributed
25 countless talented men and women in the service of our great country
26 and this historic anniversary is indeed worthy of legislative
27 recognition; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, that the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
2 4th Called Session, 2004, hereby commemorate the sesquicentennial
3 of the founding the Republican Party; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, that official copies of this resolution be prepared
5 for Republican leaders at both the state and national levels as an
6 expression of highest esteem from the Texas House of
7 Representatives and Texas Senate.