

By: Ellis

H.C.R. No. 18

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Liberty County are visiting
2 the State Capitol on February 24, 2003, to celebrate their county's
3 important role in the annals of the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Embracing a section of the Big Thicket to the north
5 and coastal prairies and marshes to the south, Liberty County
6 presents a strikingly varied landscape; artifacts uncovered near
7 the towns of Liberty and Dayton indicate that people have supported
8 themselves in this fertile land for at least 3,000 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Karankawa Indians, the first occupants of the area
10 in historic times, were joined around 1807 by Coushatta Indians
11 from Alabama; others moving into the district from the mid-1700s
12 onward included Spaniards, who by 1757 had built a military road
13 through the area, French supporters of Napoleon Bonaparte, who
14 established a colony there in 1818, and Americans, who became
15 increasingly interested in Texas after the purchase of the
16 Louisiana Territory; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1831 Mexican authorities established the town of
18 Liberty as the seat of a new municipality, which embraced most of
19 Southeast Texas; with the advent of the Republic of Texas in 1836,
20 Liberty County became one of 23 new counties created by the Texas
21 Congress, and the town of Liberty continued as the seat of local
22 government; as originally drawn, the boundaries of Liberty County
23 included present-day Tyler County and parts of Hardin, Chambers,
24 San Jacinto, and Polk counties; and

1 WHEREAS, Standing at the highest navigable point on the
2 Trinity River, the county seat quickly enjoyed prominence as a
3 commercial center; among those who practiced law in the young town
4 were David G. Burnet, William B. Travis, and Sam Houston, the latter
5 of whom maintained a law office in Liberty and handled cases there
6 from 1838 to 1855; the hero of San Jacinto also acquired some 20,000
7 acres in the county and established two plantation homes on his
8 property; and

9 WHEREAS, Other prominent Texans associated with Liberty
10 County include Governors Ross S. Sterling, who lived there for a
11 time, and Marion Price Daniel, Sr., who was born in Dayton and made
12 his home in Liberty with his wife, Jean, a direct descendant of Sam
13 Houston; and

14 WHEREAS, With approximately half of its area constituting
15 prime farmland, Liberty County has long counted farming and
16 ranching as pillars of its economy; adding to its prosperity are an
17 industrial sector that includes lumbering, oil production,
18 chemical plants, and varied manufacturing; and

19 WHEREAS, Noted attractions in the county include the Big
20 Thicket National Preserve and, in the town of Liberty, the Sam
21 Houston Regional Library and Research Center and the Humphreys
22 Cultural Center; the county seat also boasts the Trinity Valley
23 Exposition, an annual fair that has been drawing enthusiastic
24 participants and visitors for nearly a century; and

25 WHEREAS, The citizens of Liberty County, today more than
26 70,000 strong, are preserving the best of their past while
27 continuing to forge an ever brighter future for themselves and

1 their families, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor them at this
2 time; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize February 24, 2003, as Liberty County
5 Day 2003 at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present
6 on this day sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable
7 visit.