

By: Christian

H.R. No. 214

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Heritage Trails Program is a regional
2 tourism initiative of the Texas Historical Commission that helps
3 revitalize towns, increases visitation to cultural and historic
4 sites, and raises awareness of the importance of historic
5 preservation to the tourism industry, and today, many proud
6 partners of this exemplary undertaking are in Austin to celebrate
7 the rich history of Texas and the many contributions of this program
8 to the Lone Star State; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the Texas Heritage Trails Program, the Texas
10 Historical Commission is currently providing technical,
11 educational, and financial assistance to 139 counties; moreover,
12 the commission is partnering with other state agencies, city
13 governments, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors
14 bureaus, museums, historic sites, historical societies, state and
15 national parks, and national forests; and

16 WHEREAS, The Texas Heritage Trails Program supports the
17 efforts of communities seeking to assist travelers who wish to
18 connect with their heritage and share it with their children; and

19 WHEREAS, Most of the state's cities and rural communities
20 have historic sites of interest to visitors; with the Texas travel
21 and tourism industry predicted to grow by 30 percent during the next
22 decade, heritage tourism is poised to provide a significant
23 infusion for the economy while helping to educate a new generation
24 about what it means to be a Texan and an American; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals who visit historic sites and
2 communities make a particularly strong contribution to the economic
3 vitality of Texas; they spend an average of \$29 per day more than
4 nonheritage travelers and inject approximately \$1.43 billion into
5 the state's economy annually, creating over 32,000 jobs for Texans
6 every year; and

7 WHEREAS, Considered one of the premier heritage tourism
8 endeavors in the country, the Texas Heritage Trails Program owes
9 its success to the dedication of individuals serving on boards of
10 directors, on committees, and as friends of the program, and their
11 contributions to the state are truly deserving of special
12 legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2003, as Texas Heritage
15 Trails Day at the State Capitol and join with the friends of the
16 Texas Heritage Trails Program in paying tribute to this vital
17 enterprise; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
19 for the regional offices of the Texas Heritage Trails Program as an
20 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.