

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 396

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A delegation of proud Texans has traveled to Austin
2 to celebrate Walker County Day at the State Capitol on March 11,
3 2003, and this festive occasion merits special legislative
4 recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, Walker County was created in 1846 from a portion of
6 Montgomery County; originally named for U.S. Secretary of the
7 Treasury Robert J. Walker, it was renamed in 1863 for Samuel H.
8 Walker, a Texas Ranger captain; and

9 WHEREAS, The county seat of Huntsville was established in
10 1853 at the site of a settlement that initially had been founded by
11 Pleasant Gray as a trading post to promote commerce with the Bidai
12 Indians and other native tribes and that was named by Mr. Gray after
13 his hometown in Alabama; communities in the county include Dodge,
14 Riverside, New Waverly, and Phelps; and

15 WHEREAS, Situated deep in the East Texas Piney Woods and more
16 than 70 percent forested, Walker County is richly blessed by
17 nature; its rolling hills are bisected by plentiful water sources,
18 including the Trinity and San Jacinto rivers, Lake Livingston, Lake
19 Conroe, and Lake Raven; combined with the Sam Houston National
20 Forest and Huntsville State Park, its natural amenities provide a
21 host of recreational opportunities for enthusiasts who favor
22 hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping, and other outdoor
23 activities; and

24 WHEREAS, Enhancing the city's vitality are the many students

1 and faculty at Sam Houston State University; the campus of this
2 well-regarded institution, which was founded in 1852 as Austin
3 College, is graced by a historic landmark, a magnificent Greek
4 Revival structure known as the Austin College Building and
5 distinguished as the oldest educational building in continuous use
6 west of the Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, Another notable landmark in the city is *A Tribute to*
8 *Courage*, an impressive 67-foot-tall statue of Sam Houston,
9 Huntsville's famous former resident, president of Texas, U.S.
10 senator from Texas, and hero of the Battle of San Jacinto; the
11 city's historic sites include the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and
12 Park Complex, which encompasses his homes and gravesite, the
13 H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum, Texas Prison Museum, and Huntsville
14 Main Street; and

15 WHEREAS, Ranked the largest employer in Walker County, the
16 Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has been a welcome
17 presence in the county since it operated a state penitentiary in
18 1849, and the TDCJ currently oversees seven units county-wide, with
19 five in Huntsville; and

20 WHEREAS, For more than a century and a half, the people of
21 Walker County have cherished their vibrant history while building a
22 dynamic, forward-looking community, and it is a pleasure to
23 recognize this distinctive region and its notable contributions to
24 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize March 11, 2003, as Walker County Day
27 at the State Capitol and welcome all visiting from this notable

1 county.