

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 543

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Washington County are visiting the
2 Capitol on March 25, 2003, to celebrate their rich heritage and the
3 role their county has played in building the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Members of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 began
5 settling in the area of Washington County in 1821; in 1836, at
6 Washington-on-the-Brazos, delegates signed the Texas Declaration
7 of Independence and drafted a constitution for the new republic;
8 later, from 1842 to 1845, this community served as the capital of
9 the republic; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington County was created in 1836 and organized
11 the following year; situated on the Blackland Prairies, the region
12 attracted substantial immigration and developed quickly; included
13 in the flow of newcomers were Germans, Czechs, and Poles, who began
14 arriving in the mid-19th century; and

15 WHEREAS, The foundation of several colleges in the 1840s and
16 1850s, among them Baylor University and a precursor to Southwestern
17 University, testified to the dynamic nature of Washington County;
18 today Blinn College, established in 1883 in Brenham, the county
19 seat, carries on the county's early tradition of higher learning;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, An important part of this rich heritage of education
22 is Brenham Independent School District (BISD), which ably serves
23 the educational needs of more than 4,700 students in Washington
24 County; the first public chartered school district in Texas, BISD

1 is the proud home to Brenham High School, whose varsity football
2 team won the 2002 district title and reached the final game of the
3 4A high school playoffs; and

4 WHEREAS, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role
5 in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular
6 destination for visitors who can wander its scenic country roads,
7 enjoy the recreation afforded by Somerville Lake, and step into the
8 past at the Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Texas Baptist
9 museums; the Star of the Republic Museum, in
10 Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, tells the story of
11 the Texas Republic; and

12 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the Blue Bell
13 Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, and a miniature
14 horse farm; among the many festivals are the venerable Washington
15 County Fair, Burton's Cotton Gin Festival, Chappell Hill's
16 Bluebonnet and Scarecrow festivals, and Brenham's Maifest; and

17 WHEREAS, The industrious residents of this vital Texas county
18 are preserving the best of their past and looking forward to the
19 challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and it is indeed a
20 pleasure to honor them at this time; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 25, 2003, as Washington County
23 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present on
24 this day sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.