

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 133**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**RESOLVED**, That official copies of this Resolution be prepared for the regional offices of the Texas Heritage Trails Program as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 25, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate