

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 157

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to designate February 27, 2003, as Bellville Heritage Gathering and Austin County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The Bellville Heritage Gathering and Austin County Day is held to create a better understanding of the relevance of the community's diverse culture, history, and traditions and to acknowledge its citizens' accomplishments and contributions to the people of the state and to the nation; and

WHEREAS, Bellville became the seat of Austin County in 1848 and was named for its first settlers, Thomas and James Bell, who immigrated from Florida in 1822; and

WHEREAS, Austin County is named for Stephen Fuller Austin, the "Father of Texas," who selected the area for the first Anglo-American settlement in Texas in 1823 and is one of the oldest counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Austin County was organized in 1837 during the Republic of Texas; the county experienced three waves of settlement, the Anglo-Americans, the German immigrants, and the Czech immigrants; and

WHEREAS, The first county seat was located at San Felipe, also the first capital of Texas; the first English school and Sunday school in Texas began in San Felipe in 1827, and the first newspaper, the *Texas Gazette*, began in 1829; and

WHEREAS, Also organized in San Felipe were the Texas Postal System and the Committee of Safety, which was founded as protection against the Karankawa Indians; the Committee of Safety grew in time to be called the Texas Rangers; and

WHEREAS, Austin County, with its rolling hills and idyllic rural settings can be breathtaking in its beauty, and its farmhouses and its commercial buildings reveal the vital and tenacious pioneer spirit that brought a civilized way of life to this land; and

WHEREAS, Bellville Heritage Gathering and Austin County Day provides an opportunity for friends and families to honor Bellville and Austin County and to foster an interest in its heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby recognize February 27, 2003, as Bellville Heritage Gathering and Austin County Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the residents of Bellville and Austin County as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Armbrister

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 12, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate