

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 391

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In the 1840s and 1850s, the foundations of several established colleges, including those for Baylor University and a precursor to Southwestern University, testified to the dynamic nature of Washington County; today Blinn College, established in 1883 in Brenham, the county seat, carries on the county's early tradition of interest in higher education; and

WHEREAS, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular tourist destination; visitors can wander its scenic country roads, enjoy the recreation afforded by Somerville Lake, and step into the past at the Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and

Texas Baptist museums; the Star of the Republic Museum, in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, tells the story of the Texas Republic; and

WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the Blue Bell Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, and a miniature horse farm; the county's well-known festivals include the Washington County Fair, Burton's Cotton Gin Festival, Chappell Hill's Bluebonnet and Scarecrow festivals, and Brenham's Maifest; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby declare March 25 Washington County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.

Armbrister

President of the Senate

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

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate