

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The history of the Lone Star State has been richly  
2 influenced by family farming and ranching, and John Charles Austin  
3 of McMullen County has now been officially recognized as an heir to  
4 this proud tradition with the acceptance of the Austin Ranch into  
5 the Texas Family Land Heritage Program; and

6           WHEREAS, The Family Land Heritage Program recognizes farms  
7 and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by  
8 the same family for a century or more, and in reaching this  
9 remarkable milestone, the Austin Ranch has secured its stature in  
10 Texas ranching history; and

11           WHEREAS, Purchased by Ralph S. Franklin in the early 1880s,  
12 the 5,000-acre property was originally a part of Confederate Scrip  
13 No. 1497; Mr. Franklin and his family, including his wife, Minerva,  
14 and their 12 children, raised cattle on the land; and

15           WHEREAS, Over the ensuing years, the property was passed down  
16 through generations of Mr. Franklin's descendants, from his son,  
17 Tom, to his granddaughters, Rosemary Franklin Haynes and Charlie  
18 Ann Franklin Austin, to his great-grandson, John Charles Austin,  
19 who inherited 884 acres of the land in 1997; since taking ownership,  
20 Mr. Austin has continued the family tradition of raising livestock  
21 while making repairs to the water tanks and implementing brush and  
22 soil erosion control practices; and

23           WHEREAS, The rewarding but challenging work of running a  
24 sustainable agricultural operation is not only a valuable service

1 to the community but also a vital link to the rich and colorful  
2 history that has made the Lone Star State what it is today, and the  
3 Austin family continues to contribute immeasurably to this fine  
4 tradition; now, therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
6 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate John Charles  
7 Austin on the inclusion of the Austin Ranch into the Texas Family  
8 Land Heritage Program and extend to him sincere best wishes for the  
9 future; and, be it further

10         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for Mr. Austin as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
12 House of Representatives.

Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 80

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 80 was adopted by the House on April 27, 2006, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House