

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 80

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.