

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 81

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Family Land Heritage Program of the Texas
2 Department of Agriculture honors properties in Texas that have been
3 owned and operated by the same family for more than a century, and
4 this distinguished roster recognizes the Guy H. Smith and Sons
5 Ranch for its remarkable 150-year history; and

6 WHEREAS, This venerable ranch traces its origins to 1852,
7 when Cornelius Smith, a native of Ireland, laid claim to 160 acres
8 of well-watered grassland in Atascosa County; "Professor" Smith,
9 the cousin of Abraham Lincoln's father, Tom, had arrived in the
10 United States at the age of 14 and at the age of 15 traveled with the
11 future U.S. president to Alabama to teach school; Mr. Smith's
12 interest in Texas was reportedly quickened by descriptions in
13 letters that his students would bring to class; and

14 WHEREAS, After selecting land in Texas, Cornelius Smith
15 returned to Alabama and married Sarah Payte; in 1856 the couple
16 moved to Texas with their three children and began cultivating
17 forage crops; the Smiths' family eventually grew to include nine
18 children; and

19 WHEREAS, Following the death of their parents within five
20 months of each other in 1890-1891, the children of Cornelius and
21 Sarah Smith inherited the family ranch; son Thomas Pate Smith and
22 his wife, Susie Hooker Smith, added significantly to their
23 holdings; they had nine children, including a son, Guy Hooker
24 Smith, who as a young child worked in the cow camps and took part in

1 trail rides; and

2 WHEREAS, A veteran of World War I and a district clerk in
3 Jourdanton, Guy Smith married Hazel Holland, the local
4 schoolteacher, with whom he raised a son and a daughter; he acquired
5 approximately 1,000 acres following his father's death in 1932, and
6 in 1975, the Guy H. Smith and Sons Ranch was recognized by the
7 Family Land Heritage Program for 100 years of agricultural
8 production; and

9 WHEREAS, When Guy Hooker Smith passed away in 1977, his son,
10 Guy Holland Smith, acquired 602 acres, which he used to raise
11 cattle; Guy Holland Smith was married to Gloria Pfeil, and to their
12 union were born six children; and

13 WHEREAS, On Mr. Smith's death in 1984, his 1,005-acre ranch
14 included 242 acres that could be traced back to the founder; this
15 cattle-raising enterprise is currently held in trust for the Smith
16 children, with their mother, Gloria Pfeil Smith, serving as
17 trustee; and

18 WHEREAS, For more than a century and a half, the Guy H. Smith
19 and Sons Ranch and the descendants of Cornelius and Sarah Smith have
20 made enduring contributions to Atascosa County and to agriculture
21 in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
23 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate all those
24 associated with the Guy H. Smith and Sons Ranch on its inclusion in
25 the Texas Family Land Heritage Program and that they be extended
26 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the Smith family as an expression of high regard by the
2 Texas House of Representatives.