

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 166

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Bandera County, treasured by Texans for its scenic  
2 beauty and proud ranching tradition, is celebrating its 150th  
3 anniversary in 2006; and

4           WHEREAS, The first inhabitants of Bandera County lived in  
5 rock shelters there some 6,000 to 10,000 years ago; Lipan Apaches  
6 and later Comanches roamed the area in historic times, and their  
7 resistance to white encroachment largely discouraged settlement  
8 until the latter decades of the 19th century; and

9           WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the danger posed by Indian raids, a  
10 group of entrepreneurs acquired land on the Medina River, within  
11 the borders of the present-day county, in 1852, and the following  
12 year, members of the group surveyed the town of Bandera and opened a  
13 sawmill and commissary; and

14           WHEREAS, A band of approximately 250 Mormons arrived in the  
15 area in 1854 and eventually established homes near the community of  
16 Bandera; in 1855, 16 Polish families moved to the latter settlement  
17 to work in the sawmill; their parish, St. Stanislaus, is the second  
18 oldest Polish Catholic parish in the United States; and

19           WHEREAS, Bandera County was created by the Texas Legislature  
20 on January 25, 1856, and organized on March 10, 1856, with the town  
21 of Bandera as the county seat; during the county's early years, the  
22 making of cypress shingles and cattle ranching figured prominently  
23 as economic endeavors; and

24           WHEREAS, In the 1870s, as the threat of Indian attack

1 receded, the population of Bandera County grew markedly and the  
2 county became a staging area for cattle drives up the Western Trail;  
3 by 1880, however, sheep outnumbered cattle, and wool had become the  
4 county's most important export; the 1880s also saw the development  
5 of an important Angora goat industry; and

6 WHEREAS, After fluctuating moderately throughout much of the  
7 20th century, the population of Bandera County has risen rapidly  
8 since 1970, and approximately 20,000 individuals now make their  
9 home there; and

10 WHEREAS, While ranching continues to dominate the  
11 agricultural scene, Bandera County has also become known in recent  
12 years for its apple harvest; forest products play an important role  
13 in the local economy as well, as do hunting, fishing, and,  
14 especially, tourism; and

15 WHEREAS, Around 1920, the first ranches in Texas to welcome  
16 paying guests opened in Bandera County, and dude ranches continue  
17 to rank as one of the county's most prominent tourist attractions;  
18 outdoors recreation is also the order of the day at two other major  
19 draws, Lost Maples and Hill Country State Natural Areas; and

20 WHEREAS, The citizens of Bandera County are heirs to a rich  
21 western heritage, a legacy reflected in the county's bold motto,  
22 "Cowboy Capital of the World"; as they celebrate this special  
23 milestone, it is a pleasure to recognize their industry, their  
24 achievements, and their public spirit; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
26 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate Bandera  
27 County on its 150th anniversary and extend to all its citizens

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1 sincere best wishes for a memorable commemoration.