

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 32

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, For three weeks in January 2005, the Huff Diary and  
2 Wagon Train Project is engaging hundreds of students from across  
3 Texas and California in a hands-on history project of epic scope,  
4 exemplifying not only creative initiative on the part of educators  
5 and outstanding support by state employees, but also inventive and  
6 effective use of Texas state parks and historic landmarks; and

7           WHEREAS, The educational adventure of a lifetime, the  
8 singular project is affording participants the opportunity to  
9 travel 650 miles in horse-drawn wagons across Texas from El Paso to  
10 near Austin as they retrace, in reverse, the legendary route of  
11 1850s gold rush pioneer William P. Huff; along the trail, they are  
12 studying firsthand those historic Texas landmarks described in  
13 Huff's diary; and

14           WHEREAS, Thousands of additional students may vicariously  
15 experience the exciting journey by accessing a state-of-the-art  
16 website that follows the progress of the wagon train through daily  
17 photographic and text updates and serves as a forum for dialogues by  
18 e-mail with Wagon Train participants; and

19           WHEREAS, William P. Huff came to San Felipe as one of Stephen  
20 F. Austin's original "Old Three Hundred" settlers in 1824 and set up  
21 a general store with his father; during the Texas Revolution, he  
22 befriended Mr. Austin and other luminaries of Texas history,  
23 including William B. Travis, Jim Bowie, and Sam Houston; in 1859, he  
24 left the Lone Star State for the Northern California gold fields,

1 compiling along the way a 300,000-word diary that today stands as  
2 the most detailed account available of the lesser-known Southern  
3 Gold Rush Trail; and

4 WHEREAS, The history of William Huff and the other  
5 "Argonauts" who blazed this trail has remained largely untold,  
6 despite the fact that this stirring and important chapter of the  
7 state's rich history further reveals a drive and determination that  
8 defines the cultural character of Texans even today; and

9 WHEREAS, The Huff Diary and Wagon Train Project provides an  
10 opportunity to draw much-deserved attention to Mr. Huff's story and  
11 to demonstrate the effectiveness of hands-on learning experiences  
12 in teaching the history and heritage of our state; now, therefore,  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby recognize the Huff Diary and Wagon Train Project for its  
16 innovative and unprecedented approach to history education,  
17 welcome the participants to Austin, and applaud the students,  
18 parents, teachers, state agencies, county historical societies,  
19 and all those involved in this remarkable undertaking.