

By: Cook of Colorado, Bohac, Crabb

H.C.R. No. 93

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In the mid-19th century, Czech and German settlers
2 arrived in Central Texas looking for new lives of economic
3 opportunity and religious freedom; these hardworking immigrants
4 developed small communities in Fayette County and constructed
5 churches to comfort their spirits and sustain their faith; and

6 WHEREAS, Today four of these churches dot the landscapes of
7 Ammannsville, Dubina, High Hill, and Praha, small communities near
8 Schulenburg; these four Catholic churches are monuments to the
9 strength and perseverance of our state's early settlers, but they
10 also provide a rich aesthetic history of Texas; though the
11 architecture is typically Gothic Revival in style, the interior of
12 these spaces includes rare decorative painting techniques and
13 nearly every wall is covered with bright, densely rendered murals;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Schulenburg serves as the destination of choice for
16 those who want to experience the beauty of the churches firsthand as
17 the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce offers tours of the Painted
18 Churches, which let visitors marvel at the visual splendor of this
19 charming part of Texas history; and

20 WHEREAS, In Ammannsville, St. John the Baptist Church
21 features a distinctive interior of soft colors and a vaulted
22 ceiling decorated with ornamental paintings of cherubs, palm ferns,
23 and lily blossoms; in Dubina, Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic
24 Church includes the masterful strokes of a 19th century painter's

1 original frescoes, which were restored in the 1980s; and

2 WHEREAS, The wild prairie land of High Hill is home to St.
3 Mary's Catholic Church, which features 18 stained glass windows
4 imported from Germany in the late 1800s; the rich reds and blues
5 from the windows complement a dark, hand-carved altar and the hues
6 of the statues of religious figures and saints; the final site, the
7 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Praha,
8 contains wood from Germany's Black Forest, and it also features the
9 work of Swiss artist Gottfried Flurry, who painted the ceiling with
10 religious imagery and flowers and vines representing local flora;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Nestled in the gentle rolling hills of Fayette
13 County, the Painted Churches of Texas are an irreplaceable part of
14 our state's cultural heritage; for the region's early settlers, the
15 churches represented hope and freedom, while today, they are
16 monuments to a glorious past; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate Schulenburg the Official Home of the Painted
19 Churches of Texas.