

1-1 By: Cook of Colorado, et al. H.C.R. No. 93
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Armbrister)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;
1-4 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 Intergovernmental Relations; May 12, 2005, reported favorably by
1-6 the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 12, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, In the mid-19th century, Czech and German settlers
1-9 arrived in Central Texas looking for new lives of economic
1-10 opportunity and religious freedom; these hardworking immigrants
1-11 developed small communities in Fayette County and constructed
1-12 churches to comfort their spirits and sustain their faith; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Today four of these churches dot the landscapes of
1-14 Ammannsville, Dubina, High Hill, and Praha, small communities near
1-15 Schulenburg; these four Catholic churches are monuments to the
1-16 strength and perseverance of our state's early settlers, but they
1-17 also provide a rich aesthetic history of Texas; though the
1-18 architecture is typically Gothic Revival in style, the interior of
1-19 these spaces includes rare decorative painting techniques and
1-20 nearly every wall is covered with bright, densely rendered murals;
1-21 and

1-22 WHEREAS, Schulenburg serves as the destination of choice for
1-23 those who want to experience the beauty of the churches firsthand as
1-24 the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce offers tours of the Painted
1-25 Churches, which let visitors marvel at the visual splendor of this
1-26 charming part of Texas history; and

1-27 WHEREAS, In Ammannsville, St. John the Baptist Church
1-28 features a distinctive interior of soft colors and a vaulted
1-29 ceiling decorated with ornamental paintings of cherubs, palm ferns,
1-30 and lily blossoms; in Dubina, Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic
1-31 Church includes the masterful strokes of a 19th century painter's
1-32 original frescoes, which were restored in the 1980s; and

1-33 WHEREAS, The wild prairie land of High Hill is home to St.
1-34 Mary's Catholic Church, which features 18 stained glass windows
1-35 imported from Germany in the late 1800s; the rich reds and blues
1-36 from the windows complement a dark, hand-carved altar and the hues
1-37 of the statues of religious figures and saints; the final site, the
1-38 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Praha,
1-39 contains wood from Germany's Black Forest, and it also features the
1-40 work of Swiss artist Gottfried Flurry, who painted the ceiling with
1-41 religious imagery and flowers and vines representing local flora;
1-42 and

1-43 WHEREAS, Nestled in the gentle rolling hills of Fayette
1-44 County, the Painted Churches of Texas are an irreplaceable part of
1-45 our state's cultural heritage; for the region's early settlers, the
1-46 churches represented hope and freedom, while today, they are
1-47 monuments to a glorious past; now, therefore, be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-49 hereby designate Schulenburg the Official Home of the Painted
1-50 Churches of Texas.

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