

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 69

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Laredo is celebrating the life of one of
2 this nation's most revered leaders when it hosts the 108th
3 Washington's Birthday Celebration from January 29 to February 20,
4 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Virginia on February 22, 1732, President
6 George Washington left an indelible legacy as this nation's first
7 commander in chief and president; admired for his courage, vision,
8 and integrity, he remains one of the most influential and respected
9 United States presidents of all time; and

10 WHEREAS, The special Laredo celebration of Washington's
11 birthday dates back to February 22, 1898, when the tribe of the
12 Improved Order of Red Men, a patriotic fraternal organization
13 descended from the Sons of Liberty, and the defenders of City Hall
14 staged a spirited mock battle, representing the colonial struggle
15 against the British; when the Red Men emerged victorious and the
16 mayor presented the key to the City of Laredo to the "Great Chief
17 Sachem," "Sachem" being a code name used by George Washington
18 during the American Revolution, a tradition was born; and

19 WHEREAS, This 17-day, 32-event extravaganza combines
20 elements of both Hispanic and Anglo cultures and features parades,
21 pageants, and concerts, as well as a carnival, a children's fun
22 fest, fireworks, and an abundance of good food; the largest of its
23 kind in the United States, this annual celebration continues to
24 grow, attracting thousands of visitors each year; and

1 WHEREAS, Established in 1923, the Washington's Birthday
2 Celebration Association of Laredo, Inc., oversees the festivity,
3 which, among its many notable events, includes the Colonial Pageant
4 and the International Bridge Ceremony; and

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of Laredo can take great pride in their
6 city's celebration of our legendary founding father, and it is
7 appropriate to take this opportunity to recognize and commend all
8 who participate in the event; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2005 Washington's Birthday
11 Celebration in Laredo and extend to its organizers and participants
12 sincere best wishes for another successful and memorable
13 observance; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the members of the Washington's Birthday Celebration
16 Association of Laredo, Inc., as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.