

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 694

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many citizens of Washington County are visiting the
2 Capitol on March 8, 2005, to celebrate their rich heritage and the
3 role their county has played in building the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Members of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 began
5 settling in the area of Washington County in 1821; in 1836, at
6 Washington-on-the-Brazos, delegates signed the Texas Declaration
7 of Independence and drafted a constitution for the new republic;
8 later, from 1842 to 1845, this community served as the capital of
9 the republic; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington County was created in 1836 and was
11 organized the following year; situated on the Blackland Prairies,
12 the region attracted substantial immigration and developed
13 quickly; included in the flow of newcomers were Germans, Czechs,
14 and Poles, who began arriving in the mid-19th century; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1840s and 1850s the establishment of several
16 colleges, among them Baylor University and a precursor to
17 Southwestern University, testified to the dynamic nature of
18 Washington County; today Blinn College, founded in 1883 in Brenham,
19 the county seat, carries on the county's early tradition of higher
20 education; and

21 WHEREAS, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role
22 in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular
23 tourist destination; visitors can wander its scenic country roads,
24 enjoy the recreation afforded by Somerville Lake, and step into the

1 past at the Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence
2 museums; the Star of the Republic Museum, in
3 Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, tells the story of
4 the Texas Republic; and

5 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the Blue Bell
6 Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, and a miniature
7 horse farm; the county's well-known festivals include the
8 Washington County Fair, which is the oldest county fair in Texas,
9 Burton's Cotton Gin Festival, Chappell Hill's Bluebonnet and
10 Scarecrow festivals, and Brenham's Maifest; and

11 WHEREAS, The industrious residents of this vital Texas county
12 are preserving the best of their past and looking forward to the
13 challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and it is indeed a
14 pleasure to honor them at this time; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize March 8, 2005, as Washington County
17 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present on
18 this day sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.