

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Huff Diary and Wagon Train Project, which is engaging hundreds of school students from across Texas and California in a hands-on history project of epic scope; and

WHEREAS, This creative initiative provides students the opportunity to travel 650 miles in horse-drawn wagons from El Paso to near Austin; they will retrace in reverse the route of 1850s gold rush pioneer William P. Huff; along the way, they will visit Texas landmarks described in Mr. Huff's diary; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of other students will participate in the project by use of a companion Internet site through which they can view photographic and text updates on the wagon train's progress; they can also ask wagon train participants questions and receive answers through e-mail; and

WHEREAS, William P. Huff was a member of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred, the original settlers who arrived in San Felipe, Texas, in 1824; William lived through the Texas Revolution and left the state in 1859 for the Northern California gold fields; during his journey, he compiled a 300,000-word diary that is considered the most detailed account of the lesser known Southern Gold Rush Trail; and

WHEREAS, The Huff Diary and Wagon Train Project, led by California school teacher Bill Coate, will provide students with an experience that resembles the authentic pioneer life of the 1800s; along the trail, students will keep records of their journey and will collaborate on a book about their experiences after returning to school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby applaud the students, parents, teachers, state agencies, county historical societies, and the many others involved in this unprecedented project; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for all those associated with the Huff Diary and Wagon Train Project as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Armbrister

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 25, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate