

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 173

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize February 24, 2005, as Austin County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Austin County is named in honor of Stephen Fuller Austin, the "Father Of Texas," who chose the site for his colony in 1823; home to the first Anglo-American settlement in Texas, Austin Colony was organized in 1837 during the days of the Republic of Texas and is one of the oldest counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The town of San Felipe was the first Austin County seat; it was also the first capital of Texas, and the history of the town is noted for its series of "firsts"; its residents established the first English-speaking school and Sunday school in Texas in 1827; the first newspaper in Texas, the *Texas Gazette*, was published in San Felipe in 1829, and the first organized opposition to Mexican rule was expressed in San Felipe at the Convention of 1832; and

WHEREAS, Also organized in Austin County were the Texas Postal System and the Committee of Safety; the latter was originally founded as protection against the Karankawa Indians and later gained renown as the Texas Rangers; and

WHEREAS, Austin County experienced three waves of settlement--the Anglo-Americans, the German immigrants, and the Czech immigrants; Industry was the first German settlement in Texas, and the first Czech settlement in Texas was at Cat Spring; and

WHEREAS, In 1848, the county seat was moved to Bellville, a settlement named in honor of early settlers Thomas and James Bell,

who arrived in Texas in 1822; the town of Bellville was incorporated in 1929; and

WHEREAS, With its rolling hills and idyllic rural vistas, Austin County reminds all Texans of the beauty of the wild land to which early settlers first arrived; more importantly, its vital and engaged citizens and its forward-thinking communities show all Texans the progress that can be made through the strength and tenacity of the pioneer spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the citizens of Austin County for their many contributions to our state and extend to them best wishes for a joyous and celebratory Austin County Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Austin County 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 February 24, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate