

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 309**

**WHEREAS**, Citizens of Washington County are visiting the Capitol on March 8, 2005, to celebrate their rich heritage and the role their county has played in the development of the Lone Star State; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, The foundation of several colleges in the 1840s and 1850s, among them Baylor University and a precursor to Southwestern University, testified to the dynamic nature of Washington County; today, Blinn College, established in 1883 in Brenham, the county seat, carries on the county's early tradition of interest in higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular tourist destination; visitors can wander its scenic country roads, enjoy the recreation afforded by Lake Somerville, and step into the past at the Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence museums; the Star of Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park tells the story of the Republic of Texas; and

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby declare March 8, 2005, Washington County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special day.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 8, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate