

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 93

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 110th
3 Washington's Birthday Celebration from January 18 to February 18,
4 2007; 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 month-long extravaganza combines elements of
20 both Hispanic and Anglo cultures and features parades, concerts, a
21 carnival, fireworks, and an air show; the largest of its kind in the
22 United States, this annual celebration attracts approximately
23 400,000 participants each year; and

24 WHEREAS, Established in 1923, the Washington's Birthday

1 Celebration Association of Laredo, Inc., oversees the festivity,
2 which, among its many notable events, includes the Colonial Pageant
3 and the International Bridge Ceremony; through its support of this
4 popular yearly attraction, the organization strives to foster a
5 greater understanding between the people of the Americas, to
6 promote Laredo as one of the state's most patriotic and culturally
7 vibrant cities, and to facilitate a greater sense of civic and
8 national pride within the community and region; and

9 WHEREAS, The citizens of Laredo have done much to foster
10 these worthy goals through their city's celebration of our
11 legendary founding father, and it is appropriate to take this
12 opportunity to recognize and commend all who participate in the
13 event; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2007 Washington's Birthday
16 Celebration in Laredo and extend to its organizers and participants
17 sincere best wishes for another successful and memorable
18 observance; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the members of the Washington's Birthday Celebration
21 Association of Laredo, Inc., as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.