

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 217

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many citizens of Washington County are visiting the
2 Capitol on February 28, 2007, to celebrate their rich heritage and
3 the role their county has played in building the Lone Star State;
4 and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role
23 in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular
24 tourist destination; visitors can wander its scenic country roads,

1 enjoy the recreation afforded by Somerville Lake, and step into the
2 past at the Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence
3 museums; the Star of the Republic Museum, in
4 Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, tells the story of
5 the Texas Republic; and

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2007, as Washington
18 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present
19 on this day sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable
20 visit.