

By: Talton

H.R. No. 255

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Among our state's many notable attractions, few have
2 played a more prominent role during times of war than the famed
3 Battleship *Texas*, which sits moored at the San Jacinto Battleground
4 under the care of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and

5 WHEREAS, The Battleship *Texas* Foundation endeavors to raise
6 funds to restore and maintain this historic vessel; made up of
7 retired military personnel, business leaders, and concerned
8 community volunteers, the foundation's board is dedicated to
9 preserving the historical and educational significance of the
10 Battleship *Texas* through efforts ranging from the popular Youth
11 Overnight Program to the regularly scheduled Hard Hat Tours; and

12 WHEREAS, Commissioned on March 12, 1914, the "Mighty T" was
13 considered to be the most powerful weapon in the world when it was
14 launched on May 18, 1912; the ship served in both World War I and
15 World War II and saw action off the North African coast near
16 Morocco, at Normandy on D-Day, and at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the
17 Pacific Theater before being decommissioned on April 21, 1948;
18 suffering only one combat casualty in its many campaigns, the *Texas*
19 earned the nickname the Lucky Ship; and

20 WHEREAS, The Battleship *Texas* was a harbinger of America's
21 rise as an industrialized nation on the verge of becoming a world
22 power; in 1916, it became the first U.S. battleship to mount
23 antiaircraft guns as well as the first to employ directors and
24 range-keepers to control gunfire; other firsts followed, as the

1 *Texas* became the first U.S. battleship to launch an airplane, in
2 1919, and the first navy ship to be fitted for commercial radar, in
3 1939; and

4 WHEREAS, A National Historic Landmark and the flagship of the
5 Texas Navy, the Battleship *Texas* is a living memorial to the brave
6 men who served aboard it over the course of more than three decades;
7 even in repose, it continues to play an important role in the lives
8 of Texans and other Americans, and the Battleship *Texas* Foundation
9 deserves recognition for its ongoing efforts to preserve this vital
10 link to our nation's past; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend the Battleship *Texas* Foundation for its
13 care and restoration of the Battleship *Texas* and express
14 appreciation to those individuals and groups who support the
15 foundation in its important work; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the members of the Battleship *Texas* Foundation as an
18 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.