

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Waller County are gathering in  
2 Austin to participate in Waller County Day at the State Capitol on  
3 February 26, 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, The rolling timberland and coastal prairie of this  
5 fertile region were originally home to herds of wild mustangs and  
6 cattle, and the nomadic Bidai tribe hunted and fished in the area;  
7 the first European settlers came in the early 1820s as part of  
8 Stephen F. Austin's original Texas colony, and the first cotton  
9 plantation in Texas was founded there; with the arrival of the  
10 Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1858, the town of Hempstead  
11 became a major shipping center for cotton and other crops; and

12           WHEREAS, After the Civil War, the county's majority black  
13 population became active in politics, and many African American  
14 residents were elected to local and state positions; Prairie View  
15 State Normal School was established in 1879 to train black  
16 teachers; and

17           WHEREAS, With Hempstead as its county seat, Waller County was  
18 established in 1873; it was named after Edwin Waller, a signer of  
19 the Texas Declaration of Independence and the first mayor of  
20 Austin; and

21           WHEREAS, Today the diverse economy of Waller County depends  
22 on such crops as rice, soybeans, corn, and hay, as well as  
23 watermelons, peaches, and pecans; Prairie View A&M University, the  
24 second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas, has

1 as its mission teaching, service, and research; it offers 39  
2 baccalaureate, 31 master's, and four doctoral degree programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Waller County is also home to the restored Liendo  
4 Plantation, one of the first cotton plantations in Texas and the  
5 residence of famed sculptor Elisabet Ney, whose statues of Stephen  
6 F. Austin and Sam Houston now stand in the State Capitol; every July  
7 Hempstead is a favorite destination for visitors coming to  
8 celebrate its Annual Watermelon Festival and enjoy the parade,  
9 street dancing, and barbecue cook-off; and

10 WHEREAS, The residents of Waller County may take justifiable  
11 pride in the fascinating history of their region of the Lone Star  
12 State, and it is a pleasure to honor them as they look ahead to a  
13 bright and prosperous future; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2007, as Waller County  
16 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
17 wishes for an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.

Zerwas

H.R. No. 543

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 543 was adopted by the House on  
February 26, 2007, by a non-record vote.

---

Chief Clerk of the House