

By: Zerwas

H.R. No. 543

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.