

By: Aycock

H.R. No. 1836

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Throughout the spring and summer of 2007, residents
2 of Killeen are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of
3 that city; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in the rolling Grand Prairie country of
5 western Bell County, Killeen came into being when the Gulf,
6 Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway bought 360 acres of land and platted
7 a seventy-block town on the site and named it after Frank P.
8 Killeen, the assistant general manager of the railway; the first
9 train arrived on May 15, 1882; and

10 WHEREAS, For the next 60 years, Killeen prospered as an
11 agricultural center, mainly for cotton, and it grew from 300 to more
12 than 1,200 residents by 1940; and

13 WHEREAS, The area was forever changed with the beginning of
14 World War II, when the United States Army situated Camp Hood as a
15 military training base on the town's borders; named after the
16 Confederate general John Bell Hood, the camp quintupled the town's
17 population in the first few years; the number of people grew so
18 quickly that some newcomers paid to sleep in henhouses, and for a
19 time nearly 1,000 workers lived in a tent city; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1950, the camp was established as a permanent
21 base and its name changed to Fort Hood; the original 160,000 acres
22 of the post, used to train soldiers in tank tactics, has since grown
23 to encompass 339 square miles, and over the years, supporting the
24 military and military families has become the foundation of the

1 culture and economy of Killeen; and

2 WHEREAS, As Fort Hood grew, so did Killeen; in 1955 the city
3 drew up a master plan that included road improvements, parks, and
4 recreation centers; Belton Lake and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir
5 were created to meet the water needs of the growing population, and
6 there was rapid growth in highway construction, housing, and retail
7 business; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, with a young and diverse population of over
9 100,000, Killeen is a center for commerce and tourism; visitors are
10 drawn by nearby lakes and by the Mayborn Planetarium and Space
11 Theater on the campus of Central Texas College; Fort Hood also draws
12 visitors to its two museums, the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and the
13 4th Infantry Division Museum, which showcase such items as cavalry
14 sabers, assault helicopters, and tanks; and

15 WHEREAS, From its beginnings as a railroad town to its
16 current position as one of the great military cities in the country,
17 Killeen has a fascinating history, and its anniversary provides a
18 fitting opportunity to recognize it and honor its citizens' support
19 for our nation's brave men and women in uniform; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate the city of Killeen on the 125th
23 anniversary of its founding and extend best wishes to the city and
24 its residents for a fine birthday celebration; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the city of Killeen as an expression of high regard by
27 the Texas House of Representatives.