

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United
2 States, was born on February 12, 1809, 200 years ago; guiding the
3 affairs of state with a rare degree of humility and charity, no less
4 than with a firm resolve, he served as the Union commander-in-chief
5 during this nation's most devastating war and led, ultimately, in
6 extinguishing an institution that had long belied the country's
7 democratic precepts; and

8 WHEREAS, A native of Kentucky, Mr. Lincoln spent his young
9 adulthood in New Salem, Illinois, where he kept a store and managed
10 a mill; in 1832, during the Black Hawk War, he was elected a captain
11 of militia, a sign of the high esteem in which he was held amongst
12 his neighbors; and

13 WHEREAS, Though he had little formal education, Mr. Lincoln
14 persevered in teaching himself, and in 1836 he was admitted to the
15 bar; the following year, he moved to Springfield, the new state
16 capital, and over the next two and a half decades he built a highly
17 successful legal practice; and

18 WHEREAS, Drawn to politics at an early age, Abraham Lincoln
19 made his first run for public office at the age of 23, when he
20 unsuccessfully sought a seat in the Illinois Legislature; two years
21 later he prevailed, and he went on to serve four terms in the
22 Illinois statehouse, from 1834 to 1841, as well as a term in the
23 U.S. House of Representatives, from 1847 to 1849; and

24 WHEREAS, An opponent of the Mexican War, Abraham Lincoln

1 found himself out of step with his constituents and retired from the
2 U.S. Congress at the end of his term; in 1854, however, passage of
3 the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which opened the territories to slavery,
4 brought him back into the political arena; though not an
5 abolitionist, he abhorred slavery and opposed its extension; in
6 1856, he left the Whigs to join the newly created Republican Party;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Two years later, as the Republican nominee for
9 senator from Illinois, Mr. Lincoln engaged the Democratic
10 candidate, Stephen Douglas, in seven widely publicized debates; the
11 state legislature reelected Mr. Douglas as senator, but Mr. Lincoln
12 emerged from the contest as a nationally recognized political
13 leader; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1860, at the Republican convention in Chicago,
15 Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency of the United
16 States on the third ballot; facing three other opponents in the
17 general election, he won with 39 percent of the popular vote; by the
18 time he took office in March 1861, seven southern states had
19 seceded; and

20 WHEREAS, A little more than a month after Mr. Lincoln's
21 inauguration, Fort Sumter fell to Confederate forces, setting off a
22 cataclysmic, four-year-long struggle over the future of the Union;
23 committed, first and foremost, to keeping the nation intact,
24 President Lincoln greatly expanded the powers of the presidency and
25 bent his energies to mastering the intricacies of government
26 business; at the same time, he sought continually for a commanding
27 general who would bring victories to the North; and

1 WHEREAS, The mounting casualties and cost of the war
2 gradually led President Lincoln, as well as many of his countrymen,
3 to view the destruction of slavery as an essential war aim; after
4 issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, which pertained only to
5 slaves in areas still in rebellion against the federal government,
6 President Lincoln worked to achieve passage of the Thirteenth
7 Amendment, which abolished slavery throughout the country; and

8 WHEREAS, In early April 1865, a few days before General
9 Robert E. Lee surrendered his troops at Appomattox, President
10 Lincoln visited Richmond, the newly fallen capital of the
11 Confederacy; following the president's return to Washington, a
12 close friend observed that "that indescribable sadness which had
13 previously seemed [a constituent] element of his very being, had
14 [suddenly given way to] an equally indescribable expression of
15 serene joy[,] as if conscious that the great purpose of his life had
16 been achieved"; and

17 WHEREAS, Though President Lincoln prosecuted the war with an
18 unswerving determination, the magnanimity of his spirit continues
19 to resonate powerfully to this day, and his words calling Americans
20 to a noble purpose are among the best known of any president; in his
21 Gettysburg Address, moreover, he held aloft a vision of this
22 country that has become an integral part of the American creed; and

23 WHEREAS, At home and abroad, Abraham Lincoln remains one of
24 the most revered figures in the pantheon of American heroes, and
25 this anniversary of his birth provides a fitting occasion to
26 reflect on his immeasurable contributions to this nation and to the
27 articulation of this country's highest ideals; now, therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham
4 Lincoln and encourage appropriate celebrations of this milestone
5 throughout the Lone Star State.

Peña
Deshotel
Branch

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 10 was adopted by the House on February 12, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 10 was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2009, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor