

By: Legler

H.C.R. No. 124

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, A battleship familiar to countless Texans, the USS  
2 *Texas* served honorably in World War I and World War II; and

3           WHEREAS, Built in Newport News, Virginia, the *Texas* was  
4 launched in 1912 and commissioned two years later; after the United  
5 States entered World War I, the ship was used to train gun crews for  
6 merchant vessels and then assigned a variety of missions in the  
7 North Sea; in 1918, it escorted the German Fleet to its surrender  
8 anchorage, and it subsequently escorted President Woodrow Wilson to  
9 peace talks in France; and

10           WHEREAS, Designated the flagship of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet  
11 in 1940, the *Texas* escorted Atlantic convoys and provided gunfire  
12 support for the Allied landings in North Africa in 1942; on D-Day,  
13 June 6, 1944, it served as the flagship for the bombardment group  
14 supporting the Allied landing on Omaha Beach; the *Texas* later  
15 shelled German positions in southern France before being  
16 transferred to the Pacific, where it lent gunfire support and  
17 antiaircraft fire to the landings at Iwo Jima and Okinawa; despite  
18 seeing action in two world wars, the *Texas* suffered only one combat  
19 casualty, thereby earning the nickname "the Lucky Ship"; and

20           WHEREAS, In addition to its proud record of naval service,  
21 the *Texas* boasts a number of historic distinctions; among U.S.  
22 battleships, it was the first to mount antiaircraft guns and the  
23 first to launch an aircraft, and it became the first ship in the  
24 U.S. Navy to use radar; the *Texas* is registered as a National

1 Historic Landmark and a National Mechanical Engineering Landmark;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Three years after the end of World War II, this  
4 venerable ship was given to the State of Texas and transformed into  
5 the first battleship memorial museum in the country; for the past  
6 six decades, the ship has been moored at the San Jacinto  
7 Battleground, where it is operated as a historic site by the Texas  
8 Parks and Wildlife Department; a private nonprofit organization,  
9 the Battleship Texas Foundation, provides vital support by raising  
10 funds for restoration, enhancements, and educational efforts; the  
11 *Texas* was designated the flagship of the Texas Navy in 1948 and the  
12 official State Ship in 1995; and

13 WHEREAS, This imposing battleship opens a window into crucial  
14 chapters in naval and world history; more important still, it  
15 serves as a monument to freedom and a reminder of the price that has  
16 been paid to preserve it; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby endorse the restoration, conservation, and presentation of  
19 the Battleship *Texas* at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic  
20 Site in a permanent dry berth, thereby assuring the preservation of  
21 this unique asset and icon of the Lone Star State for future  
22 generations; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward official copies  
24 of this resolution to the commissioners of the Texas Parks and  
25 Wildlife Commission and to the executive director of the Texas  
26 Parks and Wildlife Department.