

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 24

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Mason County, an area noted for its
2 colorful history and scenic beauty, celebrated the 150th
3 anniversary of the establishment of their county in 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, This pastoral corner of the Texas Hill Country was
5 originally a hunting ground for the Lipan Apache and Comanche
6 peoples; in the 1840s, German colonists from Fredericksburg and New
7 Braunfels began to settle the region; and

8 WHEREAS, Fort Mason was established in 1851 to protect the
9 new settlers from Indian attacks; on the eve of the Civil War,
10 Robert E. Lee, then a colonel commanding the 2nd Cavalry Regiment,
11 made his headquarters at Fort Mason; it was his last command under
12 the United States flag before he resigned to join the Confederate
13 Army; and

14 WHEREAS, Mason County was created by the Texas Legislature on
15 January 22, 1858, and three years later the town of Mason, adjacent
16 to the fort, was chosen as the county seat; cattle ranching quickly
17 became the foundation of the county's economy; disputes over
18 rustling, as well as ethnic tensions, led to a feud known as the
19 Mason County War that lasted from 1875 to 1877; and

20 WHEREAS, While ranching continues to thrive in Mason County,
21 the area's popularity as a hunting and fishing destination has
22 added another dimension to the local economy; visitors can also
23 witness the flight of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats from the
24 Eckert James River Cave on summer evenings or explore the charming

1 county seat; in addition to its architecture, shops, galleries, and
2 restaurants, the town of Mason boasts a prominent literary
3 association as the home of Fred Gipson, who wrote the book *Old*
4 *Yeller*; and

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of Mason County are justifiably proud
6 of their rich heritage, and it is a privilege to recognize this
7 significant milestone in the history of this unique area of the Lone
8 Star State; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the
11 founding of Mason County.