

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On February 19, 2009, proud residents of Austin  
2 County are gathering at the State Capitol to celebrate their  
3 county's achievements and unique place in the history of the Lone  
4 Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, The area that would become Austin County was one of  
6 the locations settled by the initial colonists who were brought to  
7 Texas by Stephen F. Austin; the first English-language newspaper in  
8 Texas, the *Gazette*, was launched in 1829 in the colony's main town,  
9 San Felipe de Austin; this settlement played an important part in  
10 the Texas Revolution, briefly serving as capital of the provisional  
11 government; it became the county seat upon the founding of Austin  
12 County in 1837 but was soon supplanted by Bellville; and

13           WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1830s, hundreds of German  
14 immigrants settled in the county, and this wave of migration  
15 accelerated when well-educated dissidents fled Germany following a  
16 failed revolution in 1848; these residents supported the  
17 establishment of an opera house in Bellville, a German-language  
18 weekly newspaper, and numerous other elements drawn from  
19 traditional German culture; the county's sizeable African American  
20 community began forming similar institutions during  
21 Reconstruction, among them a newspaper and a school for black  
22 students; Czech farmers also contributed to the distinctive  
23 character of early Austin County, and large numbers of Mexican  
24 immigrants began arriving after the First World War; and

1           WHEREAS, Industrial growth brought prominence to the town of  
2 Sealy, which became a commercial center in the late 1800s with such  
3 manufacturers as the Sealy Mattress Factory and the Engleking  
4 Brothers Broom Factory; Sealy is also the hometown of music great  
5 Huey Long, a jazz guitarist and original member of the Ink Spots;  
6 some of his memorabilia is on display today at the Heritage  
7 Park/Santa Fe Park Museum, a fascinating complex that also includes  
8 an original settler's prairie home, an antique caboose, and the  
9 town's old jail; and

10           WHEREAS, Tourism has joined agribusiness and manufacturing  
11 as a key component of the economy; the county's colorful past  
12 provides many splendid attractions and visitors to Stephen F.  
13 Austin State Park can view the original site of San Felipe de Austin  
14 while enjoying hiking, fishing, and other recreational pursuits;  
15 moreover, countless travelers come to Austin County in the spring  
16 for the scenic vistas of bluebonnets and other wildflowers; and

17           WHEREAS, Austin County maintains its pastoral charm and its  
18 many links to Texas heritage even as it prepares for the  
19 opportunities of the future, and it is most fitting to take this  
20 opportunity to honor it; now, therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2009, as Austin County  
23 Day and extend to its delegation sincere best wishes for an  
24 enjoyable and rewarding visit to the State Capitol.

Kolkhorst

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Pena
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 511

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 511 was adopted by the House on  
February 19, 2009, by a non-record vote.

---

Chief Clerk of the House