

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 688

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sam Houston, one of the most imposing figures ever
2 to lead the Lone Star State, was born on March 2, 1793, near
3 Lexington, Virginia; and

4 WHEREAS, After moving at a young age to eastern Tennessee
5 with his widowed mother and eight brothers and sisters, Sam Houston
6 ran away from home and lived for three years among the Cherokee,
7 with whom he developed close bonds of friendship; and

8 WHEREAS, His military valor during the War of 1812 brought
9 him to the attention of his commanding general, Andrew Jackson, who
10 subsequently helped to advance his career; Sam Houston remained in
11 the army until 1818, when he resigned and began the study of law; in
12 rapid succession, he was elected prosecuting attorney for the
13 District of Nashville, congressman, and, in 1827, governor of
14 Tennessee; two years later, however, while campaigning for
15 reelection, he separated from his wife; in deep distress, he
16 resigned his office and rejoined the Cherokee; and

17 WHEREAS, By 1833, Sam Houston had moved to Texas, which he saw
18 as a field of vast opportunity; quickly immersing himself in
19 politics, he favored breaking away from Mexico and served as a
20 delegate to several conventions, including the one that proclaimed
21 Texas independence on March 2, 1836; two days later, he was
22 commissioned major general of the Texas Army and put in charge of
23 the troops at Gonzales; and

24 WHEREAS, Commanding inexperienced soldiers and confronting a

1 much larger Mexican force, Sam Houston began a more than monthlong
2 withdrawal from Gonzales toward the northeast; though severely
3 criticized by many, his strategy was vindicated on April 21, 1836,
4 when he vanquished the troops under General Antonio Lopez de Santa
5 Anna at San Jacinto; and

6 WHEREAS, The following September, Sam Houston became the
7 first regularly elected president of the Republic of Texas; he
8 served until 1838 and again from 1841 to 1844, during which time he
9 supported annexation to the United States and worked to maintain
10 peace with both Mexico and the Indians; and

11 WHEREAS, Greatly admired by many fellow citizens, Sam Houston
12 then served as a U.S. senator from 1846 to 1859, when he was elected
13 governor; a staunch Unionist, he opposed the extension of slavery
14 and argued strenuously against secession; when, in 1861, Texas
15 followed a number of other southern states out of the union, he
16 refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and was
17 deposed from office; in the fall of 1862, he moved with his wife,
18 Eliza, and their children to Huntsville, where he died on July 26,
19 1863; and

20 WHEREAS, A man of exceptional ability, ambition, and force of
21 character, Sam Houston shaped the history of this state and
22 captured the imagination of its people as few other individuals
23 have ever done, and it is indeed fitting that his life be honored on
24 this celebrated date; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
26 Legislature hereby commemorate the 216th anniversary of the birth
27 of Sam Houston.