

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 698

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Fannin County are gathering at the  
2 Texas State Capitol on March 4, 2009, to celebrate Fannin County  
3 Day, and this occasion provides an opportunity to recognize the  
4 rich history and significant accomplishments of this attractive  
5 part of the Lone Star State; and

6           WHEREAS, The first nonnative settlements in the area that  
7 would become Fannin County were established in 1836, the year Texas  
8 won its independence from Mexico; when the county was formed the  
9 following year, it took its name from Colonel James Walker Fannin,  
10 Jr., a commander of the Texan revolutionaries who had been killed in  
11 the Goliad Massacre; Bonham, the county seat, was also named for an  
12 independence hero, James Bonham, who died at the Alamo and is now  
13 honored with a statue at the county courthouse; and

14           WHEREAS, A land of gently rolling hills bounded by the Red  
15 River to the north, Fannin County provides good land for farming and  
16 ranching, and those pursuits have been economic mainstays since the  
17 county was established; today, cattle, corn, wheat, milo, pecans,  
18 and hay are key products, and the many acres of farmland in the  
19 county create a tranquil, pastoral landscape; other businesses such  
20 as communications and manufacturing help to strengthen and  
21 diversify the economy; and

22           WHEREAS, Bonham, with a population of almost 10,000, is the  
23 county's largest city; it was the hometown of Sam Rayburn, the  
24 legendary Texas politician who was a member of the congress for 48

1 years and is the longest-serving speaker of the U.S. House of  
2 Representatives; his legacy is recalled at the Sam Rayburn Library  
3 and Museum and the Sam Rayburn House Museum; Bonham is also the site  
4 of the Fannin County Museum of History, the Creative Arts Center,  
5 and Fort English Park, a replica of the stockade and log buildings  
6 erected by early settlers; and

7         WHEREAS, Other well-known county attractions focus on  
8 outdoor recreation; Lake Bonham comprises more than 1,000 acres of  
9 water and is bordered by a golf course and camping facilities;  
10 additional recreational lakes are found at Bonham State Park and  
11 the Caddo National Grasslands preserve, and these public lands also  
12 offer opportunities for hiking, fishing, biking, and other  
13 activities; and

14         WHEREAS, Fannin County's 33,000 residents can take pride in  
15 their area's rich history, productive businesses, and abundant  
16 recreational activities, and it is an honor to pay tribute to their  
17 many contributions to the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

18         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize March 4, 2009, as Fannin County Day at  
20 the State Capitol and extend best wishes to the visitors from that  
21 notable Texas county for an enjoyable and rewarding visit to  
22 Austin.