

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 808

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Gonzales are traveling to Austin on
2 March 17, 2009, to celebrate Gonzales Day at the State Capitol, and
3 in special observance of the event, students in the second, third,
4 and fourth grade choir will be performing in the Capitol Rotunda;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Settled in 1825, the town was named for Rafael
7 Gonzales, the governor of Coahuila and Texas; the first battle of
8 the Texas Revolution was fought in Gonzales in October 1835, when
9 Mexican dragoons demanded that the Texan garrison surrender their
10 cannon, and the Texans responded, "Come and take it!"; the battle of
11 Gonzales was fought and the war for Texas independence was begun;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, About a week after the battle, Stephen F. Austin
14 took command of the volunteer army that had concentrated at
15 Gonzales, and in February of the following year, the Gonzales
16 Ranging Company of Mounted Volunteers rode to the aid of William
17 Barret Travis and his men at the Alamo, where 32 of the Gonzales
18 contingent gave their lives; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1837, the Republic of Texas incorporated Gonzales
20 and established Gonzales County; the post office opened in January
21 1839 and the city council held its first meeting in March, and in
22 1853 the Gonzales *Inquirer* was established; still operating, the
23 newspaper comes out twice a week and is one of the oldest
24 continuously publishing community newspapers in the state; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, Gonzales is a leader in Texas agribusiness as
2 a processing and shipping center for local beef, poultry, and pecan
3 producers and is actively planning for its future growth and
4 prosperity through the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation;
5 preserving the town's legacy as the "Lexington of Texas," the
6 Gonzales Memorial Museum honors the men who died at the Alamo and
7 contains the "Come and take it" cannon, and the lives of early
8 settlers are evoked at Gonzales Pioneer Village Living History
9 Center; and

10 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the many annual
11 events in the area, including Courthouse Trade Days, the First Shot
12 Cook Off, and the Come and Take It Festival every October, and J. B.
13 Wells Park is the site of several rodeos throughout the year; and

14 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work to build
15 a bright future, the citizens of Gonzales may take great pride in
16 their unique place in Texas history and in the contributions they
17 continue to make to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize March 17, 2009, as Gonzales Day at the
20 State Capitol and extend to the delegation sincere best wishes for a
21 productive and enjoyable visit to Austin.