

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 2056

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Germania Farmer Verein in Anhalt is hosting its
2 134th annual Maifest on May 17, 2009, and this occasion represents
3 an ideal opportunity to recognize the history of one of the Lone
4 Star State's most enduring organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, Founded by German ranchers, the Verein, or club,
6 first met at a store on October 4, 1875, to discuss ways to protect
7 cattle from the rustlers who were rampant in the area; the 50
8 charter members elected Carl Koch as their first president and went
9 on to adopt a "G" brand for all their livestock; the following
10 April, they commissioned a master blacksmith to make the brand, and
11 they posted a \$1,000 reward for the apprehension of any cattle
12 thief; and

13 WHEREAS, The branding program was so successful that the
14 Farmer Verein was soon able to take on other functions as a social
15 and benevolent association; in 1878, it became a mutual assessment
16 life insurance company, and members built Anhalt Hall the next
17 year; they conducted research to improve livestock, agriculture,
18 and horticulture and began holding fairs in the spring and fall to
19 exhibit animals and field and garden products; and

20 WHEREAS, During the first three decades, the Farmer Verein
21 expanded the hall several times, notably adding a beautiful
22 6,000-square-foot oak dance floor in 1908; renovated in 1993,
23 Anhalt Hall remains a wonderfully preserved example of the classic
24 Texas dance hall; the landmark has hosted performances by such

1 nationally known musicians as Jerry Jeff Walker and George Strait,
2 and welcomes thousands of visitors each year for Oktoberfest and
3 Maifest, when the club offers German food, beer, polkas, and
4 country-western music; the 134th Maifest features the Seven
5 Dutchmen Polka Band and country star Gary P. Nunn; and

6 WHEREAS, Presently led by Wilton Steubing, the Germania
7 Farmer Verein has had fewer than 10 presidents in its long history,
8 evidencing its stability and continuity; the current membership of
9 approximately 350 focuses on schools as well as promoting
10 agriculture and fellowship in Comal County, and all those
11 associated with this fine organization can indeed take pride in the
12 role it continues to play in its community; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize the Germania Farmer Verein and extend
15 best wishes to its members for a memorable 2009 Maifest; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the club as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.