

By: Branch

H.R. No. 2854

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 23rd annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland  
2 Games are being held at Maverick Stadium on the campus of The  
3 University of Texas at Arlington, June 5 through 7, 2009; and

4           WHEREAS, One of the largest Scottish gatherings in the  
5 country, this outstanding family event offers the public a chance  
6 to enjoy traditional Scottish music, dancing, food, and athletic  
7 competitions, as well as many other Scottish-themed activities; and

8           WHEREAS, Scots and people of Scottish descent have long made  
9 notable contributions to the exploration and development of this  
10 state; in the early 1830s, naturalist Thomas Drummond, a native  
11 Scot, collected an extensive number of plant and animal specimens  
12 between the coast and the Edwards Plateau; his collections were  
13 later distributed internationally to a number of museums and other  
14 institutions; and

15           WHEREAS, Among the first northern Europeans to settle in  
16 Texas, Scots and their descendants composed more than 40 percent of  
17 Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred and predominated among the  
18 more than 600 families in Robertson's Colony; other prominent  
19 Texans of Scottish ancestry included such heroes of the Texas  
20 Revolution as Sam Houston, David Crockett, and the empresario  
21 Sterling Clack Robertson, who signed both the Texas Declaration of  
22 Independence and the constitution of the Republic of Texas;  
23 moreover, four Scottish-born soldiers fought with the Texans at the  
24 Alamo, and one of them, John MacGregor, is reported to have rallied

1 his comrades with his bagpipes during the siege; and

2       WHEREAS, After Texas became a republic and then a state,  
3 Scots and their descendants continued to make their mark; some who  
4 achieved prominence were George Cupples, a physician, Jesse  
5 Chisholm, a frontier trader, interpreter, and trailblazer, and  
6 Edmund Duncan Montgomery, a scientist and philosopher; in addition,  
7 Scottish capitalists financed the establishment of vast cattle  
8 spreads and also the building of the present State Capitol, which  
9 was constructed with the help of Scottish stonemasons; and

10       WHEREAS, Today, organizations around the state promote  
11 fellowship among Scottish Texans, as well as such popular  
12 traditions as Scottish dance and highland games; the state even has  
13 its own official plaid, the Texas Bluebonnet Tartan; and

14       WHEREAS, Scots and their descendants have made an indelible  
15 imprint on the Lone Star State, and the Texas Scottish Festival &  
16 Highland Games provide a fitting opportunity to salute their myriad  
17 contributions; now, therefore, be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize June 2009 as Scottish Heritage Month  
20 and commemorate the 23rd annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland  
21 Games in Arlington.