

By: Deuell

S.C.R. No. 79

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 80th anniversary of the
2 death of railroad engineer Alonzo John Wemple, who spent much of his
3 career in Texas and died here in 1929; and

4 WHEREAS, Alonzo Wemple was born in Schenectady, New York, on
5 October 1, 1833, and he spent his entire professional life as a
6 railroad man, working throughout the United States; during that
7 time, he was present at many significant historical events of that
8 era; and

9 WHEREAS, While working for the Illinois Central Railroad
10 during the Civil War, Engineer Wemple transported captured
11 Confederate soldiers to Union prison camps; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1865, Mr. Wemple joined the elite group of
13 engineers who piloted the funeral train of President Abraham
14 Lincoln, which transported Lincoln's body, with stops for viewing,
15 from Washington, D.C., through Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York,
16 Ohio, and Indiana, to its final resting place in Springfield,
17 Illinois; working for the New York Central Railroad at the time, Mr.
18 Wemple piloted the train on part of its journey, probably from
19 Schenectady to Troy, New York, although it is possible he was the
20 engineer who brought the train into Springfield; and

21 WHEREAS, A few years later, Mr. Wemple was running a switch
22 engine in Illinois and witnessed the great Chicago fire that
23 ravaged the city in 1871; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Wemple then moved to Texas, and from 1886 to 1888

1 he piloted trains on the Texas and Pacific Railway that headed west
2 from Texarkana; he went on to settle in Bonham, where he piloted
3 switch engines for many years into the 1920s, and he died in Fort
4 Worth in 1929 at the age of 95; and

5 WHEREAS, History is made not only by the deeds of the famous
6 but also by the accumulated experience of countless individuals,
7 and although Alonzo Wemple played only a small part, he was a
8 witness to some of the most important events of his time; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby commemorate the life of Alonzo John Wemple and his role in
12 the history of this state and nation.