

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 219**

**WHEREAS**, Citizens of Washington County are visiting the Capitol on February 24, 2009, to celebrate their rich heritage and the role their county has played in building the Lone Star State; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred began settling in the area of Washington County in 1821; in 1836, at Washington-on-the-Brazos, delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and drafted a constitution for the new republic; later, from 1842 to 1845, this community served as the capital of the republic; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County was created in 1836 and was organized the following year; situated on the Blackland Prairies, the region attracted substantial immigration and developed quickly; included in the flow of newcomers were Germans, Czechs, and Poles, who began arriving in the mid-19th century; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 1840s and 1850s, the establishment of several colleges, among them Baylor University and a precursor to Southwestern University, testified to the dynamic nature of Washington County; today, Blinn College, founded in 1883 in Brenham, the county seat, carries on the county's early tradition of higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, The region's natural beauty and its prominent role in early Texas history have made Washington County a popular tourist destination; visitors can wander its scenic country roads, enjoy the recreation afforded by Somerville Lake, and step into the past at the museums in Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence museums; the Star of the Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park tells the story of the Texas Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, Other popular attractions include the Blue Bell Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, and a miniature horse farm; the county's well-known festivals include the Washington County Fair, which is the oldest county fair in Texas, Burton's Cotton Gin Festival, Chappell Hill's Bluebonnet and Scarecrow festivals, and Brenham's Maifest; and

**WHEREAS**, The industrious residents of this Texas county are preserving the best of their past and looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor them at this time; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby recognize February 24, 2009, as Washington County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation present on this day sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this event.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on February 17, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate