

By: Eiland

H.C.R. No. 38

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Widely regarded as one of the first Texas heroines,  
2 Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long is remembered for the remarkable  
3 courage and perseverance she displayed during the tumultuous years  
4 that carried Texas from Spanish and Mexican rule to independence;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Jane Wilkinson was born in Maryland on July 23,  
7 1798, the 10th child of Captain William Mackall and Anne Herbert  
8 Wilkinson; her uncle, General James Wilkinson, is noted in Texas  
9 history for having negotiated the creation of the Neutral Ground in  
10 1806, while serving as governor of the Louisiana Territory, and for  
11 his longtime interest in Texas as a place of opportunity and  
12 adventure; and

13           WHEREAS, After the death of her parents, Jane Wilkinson lived  
14 with her older sister in Mississippi Territory; she married James  
15 Long in 1815 and gave birth to their first child, Ann Herbert, the  
16 following year; she was expecting another child when her husband  
17 left to lead a filibustering expedition to Texas in 1819; and

18           WHEREAS, Soon after the birth of her second daughter, Mrs.  
19 Long left her children in the care of her sister in Louisiana and  
20 set out to join her husband in Nacogdoches, where he and his forces  
21 had declared independence from Spain and had established a civil  
22 government; she reached the outpost in August 1819, but within a  
23 couple of months, American families in the area were forced to flee  
24 the arrival of Spanish troops; by 1821, however, Jane Long was

1 living at her husband's new headquarters at Fort Las Casas, on the  
2 Bolivar Peninsula; and

3         WHEREAS, James Long embarked on another filibustering  
4 expedition later that year, while Mrs. Long and their surviving  
5 daughter, Ann, as well as a young slave girl, Kian, stayed behind;  
6 during Mr. Long's absence, Mrs. Long and the girls fended off  
7 Karankawa Indians by convincing them that soldiers were still at  
8 the fort, a feat they accomplished by donning cast-off uniforms,  
9 firing the cannon, and raising a makeshift flag; Mrs. Long was  
10 pregnant at the time and was the only adult present when she gave  
11 birth to another daughter, Mary James, on December 21, 1821; and

12         WHEREAS, Finally abandoning the fort in March 1822, Mrs. Long  
13 joined settlers on the mainland, where she learned that summer that  
14 her husband had been killed in Mexico City; in 1824, as one of  
15 Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred, she received title to land in  
16 present-day Fort Bend and Waller Counties; she made her home in San  
17 Felipe until 1830, then lived briefly in Mississippi before moving  
18 in 1832 to Brazoria; there she bought a boardinghouse, which was  
19 used for rallies and secret meetings and for hiding arms and  
20 munitions during the colonists' struggle against Mexico; and

21         WHEREAS, Mrs. Long, who died in 1880, became a symbol of the  
22 strength and determination of the young Texas republic; often  
23 referred to as the "Mother of Texas," she was made an honorary  
24 member of the Texas Veterans Association, and a U.S. Liberty ship  
25 was named for her during World War II; and

26         WHEREAS, Over the years, Jane Long has captured the  
27 imagination of countless Texans, and this spirited woman will long

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1 be remembered in the annals of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,

2 be it

3           RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas

4 hereby pay tribute to the life of Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long.