

By: Smith of Harris

H.C.R. No. 115

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The battleship *Texas*, built nearly a century ago,  
2 endures as one of this state's most recognized and revered  
3 historical monuments; and

4 WHEREAS, Commissioned on March 12, 1914, the *Texas* served in  
5 World War I and World War II and saw action in the Atlantic and  
6 Pacific; during the Second World War, it supported the allied  
7 invasion of North Africa, the D-Day invasion at Normandy, and the  
8 invasion of Southern France, as well as the assaults at Iwo Jima and  
9 Okinawa; remarkably, the *Texas* suffered only one combat casualty  
10 during its many naval campaigns, earning it the nickname "the Lucky  
11 Ship"; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the course of its long history, the USS *Texas*  
13 experienced many notable firsts, including being the first U.S.  
14 battleship to launch an airplane and the first ship in the U.S. Navy  
15 to use radar; and

16 WHEREAS, The *Texas* was decommissioned on April 21, 1948, and  
17 retired to its present berth at the San Jacinto Battleground State  
18 Historic Site; registered as a National Historic Landmark and as a  
19 National Mechanical Engineering Landmark, the *Texas* has also been  
20 designated as the official State Ship of Texas, and it serves as the  
21 flagship of the Texas Navy; the battleship is under the care and  
22 direction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and it  
23 receives crucial support from the Battleship Texas Foundation; and

24 WHEREAS, Led by retired military leaders and by concerned

1 business and civic leaders and community volunteers, the foundation  
2 is a nonprofit group that raises funds to assist in the ship's  
3 preservation and restoration; in addition, the foundation supports  
4 a number of outreach initiatives, including the Youth Education  
5 Program, the Overnight Program, and hard hat tours of areas on the  
6 ship that are normally closed to the public; and

7       WHEREAS, An icon of the Lone Star State, the battleship *Texas*  
8 is an imposing monument to freedom and a majestic memorial to all  
9 those Americans who have served in its defense; now, therefore, be  
10 it

11       RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby recognize the historical and cultural importance of the  
13 battleship *Texas* and commend the Battleship Texas Foundation for  
14 its ongoing efforts to preserve this unique asset of the Lone Star  
15 State for future generations; and, be it further

16       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for the Battleship Texas Foundation as an expression of  
18 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.