

By: Deshotel

H.C.R. No. 138

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The observance of San Jacinto Day on April 21, 2011,  
2 provides an ideal opportunity to honor the African Americans who  
3 fought bravely on the side of the Texians in the War of Independence  
4 from Mexico; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1835-36, numerous African Americans, free,  
6 enslaved, and indentured alike, joined in the Texas Revolution;  
7 they were counted among those who died defending the Alamo, and they  
8 fought in every battle, including Velasco, Goliad, Bexar, and San  
9 Jacinto; although early histories generally ignored these vital  
10 contributions, individual acts of courage and patriotism were  
11 recorded for posterity; and

12           WHEREAS, The first Texan casualty of the revolution was most  
13 probably Samuel McCullouch, Jr., a free African American soldier;  
14 after enlisting in the Matagorda Volunteer Company, he was severely  
15 wounded at Goliad during the storming of the Mexican officers'  
16 quarters; another African American, Hendrick Arnold, distinguished  
17 himself as a guide and soldier for Ben Milam's Texas army at the  
18 Siege of Bexar and later at the Battle of San Jacinto; and

19           WHEREAS, Throughout the War of Independence, blacksmith,  
20 innkeeper, and skilled negotiator William Goyens, a free man of  
21 color, was charged with maintaining good relations with the  
22 Cherokees; he served as the interpreter for General Sam Houston and  
23 his party in securing an important treaty; one of the few Texan  
24 survivors of the Alamo was Joe Travis, the slave of William B.

1 Travis, who delivered to the Texas cabinet a report on the battle  
2 and the strength of General Santa Anna's army; and

3       WHEREAS, The early chroniclers of the Texas Revolution failed  
4 to obtain the testimony of key witnesses to momentous events and  
5 left holes in the histories passed down to us; as a result,  
6 generations of Texas schoolchildren grew up without learning about  
7 the role African Americans played in the founding of their state;  
8 however, through surviving accounts of the remarkable deeds of men  
9 such as Joe Travis, William Goyens, Hendrick Arnold, and Samuel  
10 McCullouch, Jr., citizens of the Lone Star State can gain fuller  
11 knowledge and an appreciation for those who contributed to the  
12 struggle for Texas independence; now, therefore, be it

13       RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby honor the African Americans who fought for the Republic of  
15 Texas in the War of Independence from Mexico and encourage all  
16 citizens to learn more about their contributions.