

By: S. Davis of Harris

H.C.R. No. 143

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Debra L. Friedkin made a site along Buttermilk Creek  
2 in Bell County available to Texas A&M University's Center for the  
3 Study of the First Americans in 2006, and research at the site is  
4 adding immeasurably to our understanding of the first Americans;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Since the 1930s, archeologists have believed that  
7 early inhabitants of the Americas, named the Clovis people for  
8 artifacts found near Clovis, New Mexico, arrived in North America  
9 from Asia, by way of the Bering Land Bridge, as the last Ice Age  
10 waned about 13,500 years ago; over the past few decades, however,  
11 credible evidence has emerged for pre-Clovis human occupation of  
12 the Americas, but until now the evidence has been incomplete; and

13 WHEREAS, The land in Bell County, now known as the Debra L.  
14 Friedkin site, has been under excavation for five years by Michael  
15 R. Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First  
16 Americans, and his team of scientists and researchers from TAMU,  
17 Baylor University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the  
18 University of Minnesota, and Texas State University--San Marcos,  
19 and the group has found artifacts that support the pre-Clovis  
20 theory; and

21 WHEREAS, The excavation of the Debra L. Friedkin site has  
22 revealed deposits that testify to human occupation spanning the  
23 last 15,500 years; layers near the surface show evidence of late  
24 Prehistoric and Archaic occupants of the region, while deeper

1 layers reflect Folsom and Clovis occupations dating back 12,000 to  
2 13,000 years; below this, researchers have discovered nearly 16,000  
3 artifacts that appear to be pre-Clovis in origin; and

4 WHEREAS, Multiple studies suggest that the Debra L. Friedkin  
5 site is undisturbed and intact; because the lack of organic  
6 material at the site made carbon dating impossible, researchers  
7 employed a technique known as optically stimulated luminescence,  
8 which detects the last time the sediment surrounding the artifacts  
9 received exposure to sunlight, and more than 60 such measures show  
10 that people had arrived there by 15,500 years ago; and

11 WHEREAS, The discoveries from the excavation at the Debra L.  
12 Friedkin site are bringing archaeologists and other members of the  
13 scientific community much closer to solving mysteries of early  
14 human habitation of the Americas, and their work would not be  
15 possible without the generosity of Ms. Friedkin; now, therefore, be  
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby honor Debra L. Friedkin for her support of the ongoing  
19 research at the Debra L. Friedkin site and extend to her sincere  
20 gratitude for the advances in knowledge of human history she is  
21 helping to realize; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, Than an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Ms. Friedkin as an expression of high regard by the  
24 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.