

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 429

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Washington County are gathering
2 in Austin on February 22, 2011, to celebrate the unique role their
3 county has played in the history and ongoing development of the Lone
4 Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, The French explorer La Salle and his party, who are
6 thought to have passed through in the 1680s, may have been the first
7 European visitors to the area, and in 1821, settlers recruited by
8 Stephen F. Austin began to homestead the region; during the Texas
9 Revolution, the ferry crossing known as Washington-on-the-Brazos
10 became the headquarters of General Sam Houston and the site of the
11 Convention of 1836, where 59 delegates declared Texas independent
12 and drafted a constitution; the town of Washington was the capital
13 of the new republic from 1842 to 1845; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington County was organized in 1837, and Brenham
15 became the county seat in 1844; the county's prospects were
16 improved by the thousands of immigrants from Germany and Poland who
17 arrived during the 1860s and 1870s, and its economy was further
18 spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1880; in those years,
19 cotton, corn, and poultry were the region's mainstays; and

20 WHEREAS, The area played an important role in the history of
21 higher education in Texas; Baylor University was founded in the
22 county in 1845, and in 1856 Soule University, a precursor to
23 Southwestern University, was founded in Chappell Hill; today, Blinn
24 College in Brenham carries on this proud tradition; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington County's central role in the history of
2 Texas draws visitors from across the state; the Star of the Republic
3 Museum, Independence Hall, and the Barrington Living History Farm
4 at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site vividly evoke
5 the years of the Texas Republic; the Chappell Hill Historic
6 District hosts the "Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas" each
7 April and is home to a museum and a Masonic cemetery containing
8 descendants of William B. Travis; in addition, the building housing
9 the Brenham Heritage Museum is a venerable landmark that is listed
10 on the National Register of Historic Places; and

11 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include Lake Somerville,
12 several wineries, more than 40 bed and breakfast establishments,
13 the Antique Rose Emporium, and scenic country roads where
14 wildflowers bloom in profusion; every year, thousands of people
15 take the tour of Blue Bell Creameries, where one of the nation's
16 best-selling brands of ice cream is made; and

17 WHEREAS, Honoring their rich history even as they work to
18 build a bright future, the residents of Washington County have many
19 reasons to be proud of the place they call home; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2011, as Washington
23 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
24 delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable stay
25 in Austin.