

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 636

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On March 1, 2011, proud residents of Austin County  
2 are gathering at the State Capitol to celebrate their county's  
3 achievements and unique place in the history of the Lone Star State;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The area that would become Austin County was one of  
6 the locations settled by the initial colonists who were brought to  
7 Texas by Stephen F. Austin; the first English-language newspaper in  
8 Texas, the *Gazette*, was launched in 1829 in the colony's main town,  
9 San Felipe de Austin; this settlement played an important part in  
10 the Texas Revolution, briefly serving as capital of the provisional  
11 government; and

12           WHEREAS, San Felipe became the county seat on the founding of  
13 Austin County in 1837 but was soon supplanted by Bellville;  
14 beginning in the 1830s, Czech and German immigrants settled in the  
15 county, establishing new lives in a new land and contributing their  
16 time-honored traditions and values to further enrich the culture of  
17 Texas; and

18           WHEREAS, Today, tourism has joined agribusiness and  
19 manufacturing as a key component of the area's economy; the county's  
20 colorful past provides many splendid attractions, including the San  
21 Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, which includes the Stephen F.  
22 Austin State Visitors Center, housed in the historic J. J. Josey  
23 store; nearby is Stephen F. Austin State Park, an outstanding  
24 destination for hiking, fishing, and other recreational pursuits;

1 moreover, countless travelers come to Austin County in the spring  
2 for the scenic vistas of bluebonnets and other wildflowers; and

3       WHEREAS, The county also includes many dance halls and other  
4 examples of vintage architecture as well as numerous historical  
5 markers and cemetery designations; these sites are a credit to the  
6 preservation efforts of local and state historical commissions and  
7 serve as reminders of the traditions of area residents and events  
8 that have transpired over the years; and

9       WHEREAS, Austin County maintains its pastoral charm and its  
10 many links to the past even as it prepares for the opportunities of  
11 the future, and it is most fitting to take this opportunity to honor  
12 this part of the Lone Star State and the industrious people who make  
13 their homes there; now, therefore, be it

14       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2011, as Austin County Day  
16 and extend to its delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable  
17 and rewarding visit to the State Capitol.