

By: Fletcher

H.R. No. 855

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On March 17, 2011, the Republic of Italy is marking
2 the 150th anniversary of its unification, and this occasion
3 presents an ideal opportunity to celebrate the historic ties
4 between Italy and the United States and to recognize the remarkable
5 contributions of Giuseppe Garibaldi, an international hero of
6 liberation; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in Nice on July 4, 1807, while the city was
8 under French control, Mr. Garibaldi became a merchant marine
9 captain before joining *Giovane Italia*, or Young Italy, to free the
10 Northern Italian provinces from Austrian domination and create a
11 republican government; following a failed insurrection in 1834, he
12 made his way to South America, where he formed the Italian Legion
13 with other exiles and republicans; they fought Brazilian and
14 Argentinean imperialism, and Mr. Garibaldi's military victories
15 assured the independence of Uruguay and earned him acclaim far and
16 wide; he nobly declined the offer of land grants from the president
17 of Uruguay, stating that the "Italian legionnaires hold firmly to
18 the belief that it is their duty as free men to fight for freedom
19 wherever tyranny exists"; and

20 WHEREAS, The "Hero of Two Worlds," as he became known,
21 returned to Italy to defend the short-lived First Roman Republic,
22 but after its fall, Mr. Garibaldi escaped to the United States;
23 during a brief period as a Staten Island resident, he applied for
24 U.S. citizenship, only to rejoin the Italian *Risorgimento*, or

1 Resurgence, in 1854; he achieved decisive victories over foreign
2 imperial dynasties and on March 17, 1861, their occupation was
3 ended; and

4 WHEREAS, Italy's triumph of political self-determination
5 inspired Americans, and Mr. Garibaldi's military genius prompted
6 the Lincoln administration to approach him with the offer of a Union
7 Army command early in the Civil War, but negotiations foundered; he
8 continued to participate in the struggle for freedom in Europe and
9 died at his home on the Italian island of Caprera on June 2, 1882;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Through the years, Italy and the United States have
12 forged innumerable bonds through shared history, culture, and
13 intellectual endeavors; moreover, Italian Americans are one of our
14 nation's largest ethnic groups, numbering nearly 25 million,
15 according to the National Italian American Foundation, and many
16 Italian Americans make their home in the Lone Star State; Texans of
17 Italian descent have made vital contributions to their communities
18 and their country, and Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italy's national hero,
19 is also celebrated as a defender of liberty, much like those who
20 gave their lives at the Alamo; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the
23 unification of the Republic of Italy and posthumously recognize
24 Giuseppe Garibaldi as an honorary Texan.