

By: Kleinschmidt

H.R. No. 1026

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 2011 Masonic Oak ceremony and picnic is taking  
2 place on May 15, 2011, at Masonic Oak Park in Brazoria; and

3           WHEREAS, In March of 1835, before the establishment of the  
4 Republic of Texas, John A. Wharton, Asa Brigham, James A. E. Phelps,  
5 Alexander Russell, J. P. Caldwell, and Anson Jones gathered under  
6 an oak tree near Brazoria and made the decision to petition the  
7 Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form a new lodge in  
8 Texas; the dispensation was granted and the inaugural meeting of  
9 Holland Lodge No. 36, the first Masonic lodge established in the  
10 state, was conducted later that year; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Jones, who took part in the Battle of San Jacinto  
12 with the charter for the new lodge in his saddlebags, went on to  
13 become the first Worshipful Master of the Holland Lodge and the  
14 first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, which was founded in  
15 1837; he also served as the last president of the Republic of Texas  
16 before annexation to the United States; other renowned Masons have  
17 included Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Paul Revere, George  
18 Washington, Andrew Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D.  
19 Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, and Harry Truman; and

20           WHEREAS, The oak tree under which the six Texas founders met  
21 is now known as the Masonic Oak, and each year, Masons from  
22 throughout the State of Texas come together to commemorate the  
23 founding of that first lodge; today there are more than 90,000  
24 Masons in the Lone Star State, who enjoy fellowship at over 900

1 lodges; and

2           WHEREAS, With an emphasis on helping those less fortunate,  
3 Masons provide more than \$1.5 million each day to worthy causes in  
4 the United States; and

5           WHEREAS, From its establishment in Texas 176 years ago to the  
6 present day, Freemasonry has significantly benefited communities  
7 across this state, changing countless lives for the better through  
8 its members' many good works; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2011 Masonic Oak ceremony and  
11 picnic and extend to all those taking part in the event sincere best  
12 wishes for a meaningful and memorable observance.