

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 1318

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Hendrick Arnold, a noted early Texas scout and  
2 guide, earned a lasting place of honor for his significant service  
3 to the cause of Texas independence; and

4           WHEREAS, Born to Daniel and Martha Ann Holly Arnold in  
5 Kentucky in 1806, Hendrick Arnold moved to Texas with his family in  
6 the mid-1820s; Daniel Arnold settled on the Brazos River, in  
7 Stephen F. Austin's first colony, and later located his headright  
8 on the site of present-day Navasota; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1831, Hendrick Arnold married Maria Ignacia  
10 Saucedo, the stepdaughter of Erastus "Deaf" Smith, and settled in  
11 San Antonio; in October 1835, he was engaged in manufacturing  
12 lumber on the Medina River, near present-day Bandera, for sale in  
13 San Antonio; when he received word there that Stephen F. Austin and  
14 an army of Texas volunteers were marching on San Antonio to confront  
15 General Martin Perfecto de Cos, who had just arrived with a force of  
16 several hundred soldiers to reassert the authority of the Mexican  
17 government, he assembled his men and set out to join the Texas  
18 troops; and

19           WHEREAS, During the ensuing siege of Bexar, the first  
20 significant campaign of the Texas Revolution, Hendrick Arnold and  
21 his father-in-law served as scouts and guides for the Texas army; on  
22 October 28, they took part in the Battle of Concepcion, in which the  
23 Texans successfully repelled an attack from Mexican forces sent out  
24 from San Antonio; a week later, on December 3, the Texans chose to

1 postpone an attack on the Mexican troops in San Antonio because Mr.  
2 Arnold was away at the time, and several officers refused to advance  
3 without him; after his return, an attack on the town was set for  
4 December 5, and Hendrick Arnold guided one of the two divisions that  
5 entered Bexar and that ultimately compelled the Mexican forces  
6 there to surrender on December 9; in the official report following  
7 the battle, the commanding Texas officer singled out Mr. Arnold for  
8 particular praise; and

9       WHEREAS, Anticipating a Mexican invasion in response to the  
10 defeat inflicted on General Cos, Hendrick Arnold moved his family  
11 to safety at his father's home on the Brazos and then returned to  
12 San Antonio; while General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna laid siege to  
13 the Texas troops in the Alamo, Mr. Arnold, who remained outside the  
14 fort, helped to sustain those within by supplying them with corn and  
15 beef; afterward, he served as a spy for General Sam Houston, a role  
16 he continued to perform through the Battle of San Jacinto; and

17       WHEREAS, In March 1842, when Rafael Vasquez and some 700  
18 Mexican troops occupied San Antonio for several days, Mr. Arnold  
19 served as a scout for an opposing force of Texas Rangers led by John  
20 C. Hays; and

21       WHEREAS, Following the revolution, Mr. Arnold received land  
22 in Bandera County in compensation for his military service, but he  
23 seems not to have ever settled there; by 1843, he and his family  
24 were living in a Mexican settlement at Castroville, where he made  
25 cypress shingles for sale in San Antonio; his business interests in  
26 San Antonio apparently also included at one time a wool-washing  
27 mill, which he built near Mission San Juan in about 1836; in

1 addition, he negotiated to buy half an interest in another mill near  
2 the same mission before his death from cholera on November 9, 1849;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Arnold had three children, Mary Ann, Margaret,  
5 and Napoleon, with his first wife, who died in 1839; he remarried  
6 and also had several children with his second wife, Martina  
7 Fuentes; in 1893, his daughter Mary Ann Adams and her daughter,  
8 Sarah D. Adams, were among the first to join the Daughters of the  
9 Republic of Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Hendrick Arnold was laid to rest in the Arnold  
11 Cemetery, located on the Straus-Medina Ranch in Bexar County; in  
12 1936, in conjunction with the Texas Centennial, a grave marker  
13 noting his service in the Siege of Bexar was erected in his honor;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Held in high esteem by the men with whom he served,  
16 Hendrick Arnold is indeed deserving of recognition in 2011, the  
17 175th anniversary of Texas independence, for the vital role he  
18 played in that watershed event; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Hendrick Arnold for  
21 his notable service in behalf of Texas liberty and for his  
22 contributions to the development of the republic and the Lone Star  
23 State.