

By: Branch

H.R. No. 1462

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 21, 2011, marks the 175th anniversary of the
2 Battle of San Jacinto, the culminating engagement of the Texas
3 Revolution; and

4 WHEREAS, After a decade of sporadic clashes between Texas
5 colonists and Mexican officials, the movement toward rebellion
6 picked up increasing momentum in the fall of 1835; Antonio Lopez de
7 Santa Anna, the president of Mexico, having abrogated the
8 federalist Constitution of 1824 and assumed autocratic power,
9 decided to reestablish troops at posts in Texas that had been
10 evacuated in 1832; as part of that plan, General Martin Perfecto de
11 Cos arrived in San Antonio with a battalion of infantry on October
12 9, 1835; an army of Texas volunteers quickly moved to lay siege to
13 San Antonio, in what became the first major campaign of the
14 revolution; General Cos finally capitulated on December 9, 1835,
15 and he and his troops were allowed to withdraw to Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, Determined to suppress the rebellion, General Santa
17 Anna led an army of some 6,000 men into Texas in early 1836,
18 crossing the Rio Grande near present-day Eagle Pass; at the same
19 time, a second Mexican force, under General Jose de Urrea, advanced
20 into Texas farther to the east; while General Santa Anna besieged
21 some 180 Texas troops at the Alamo, a convention of Texas delegates
22 convened at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1, 1836, and on March
23 2 adopted a declaration of independence; two days later, the
24 convention appointed Sam Houston, one of the delegates, to take

1 command of the Texas army; and

2 WHEREAS, General Houston left immediately to join Texas
3 troops gathered in Gonzales; when he reached that town, he learned
4 that the Alamo had fallen and that a division of General Santa
5 Anna's army was marching in his direction; given that the effective
6 strength of his own force numbered only 374, as well as the fact
7 that his men were poorly provisioned and largely untrained, he
8 began a withdrawal toward the northeast, playing for time; and

9 WHEREAS, Elsewhere, the Texans were meeting with successive
10 defeats; the most shocking of those was the loss of James W. Fannin
11 and some 400 men, who were captured and then executed on March 27 in
12 what became known as the Goliad Massacre; and

13 WHEREAS, In April, General Houston halted his retreat at the
14 Brazos River and spent two weeks drilling his troops; a short time
15 later, on April 20, calculating that the time for battle had come at
16 last, he staked out a position near the confluence of Buffalo Bayou
17 and the San Jacinto River; later that same day, General Santa Anna
18 and his army caught up to the Texans and established their own
19 position; the following morning, General Cos arrived with an
20 additional body of soldiers, bringing the total strength of the
21 Mexican army to perhaps 1,200 or more, as opposed to the
22 approximately 900 men under General Houston's command; and

23 WHEREAS, Confident that he had the Texans on the defensive,
24 General Santa Anna planned to launch an attack on April 22; on the
25 afternoon of the 21st, however, while the Mexican army was resting,
26 General Houston drew up his troops in battle formation; General
27 Santa Anna had apparently posted no sentries, and a swell of land

1 between the two armies hid the Texans from view; and

2 WHEREAS, At the given signal, the Texans advanced across a
3 mile of open prairie toward the Mexican army, becoming visible only
4 when they reached within about 200 yards of the Mexican camp; crying
5 "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad," they took General Santa
6 Anna's troops completely by surprise; the battle lasted 18 minutes,
7 according to Sam Houston's report, but the killing continued for
8 about an hour afterward; in the end, Texan losses stood at 9 dead
9 and mortally wounded, with 630 Mexican soldiers killed and 730
10 taken prisoner; General Santa Anna himself was captured the
11 following day; and

12 WHEREAS, With the Battle of San Jacinto, the long colonial
13 period of Texas history, stretching as far back as the 16th century,
14 came to an end; Texas would subsequently go on to be an independent
15 republic for nine years before joining the Union in 1845; and

16 WHEREAS, The Battle of San Jacinto dramatically changed the
17 course of Texas history, and the story of how an outnumbered army of
18 volunteers ultimately prevailed against General Santa Anna and his
19 troops continues to inspire a special sense of uniqueness and pride
20 among Texans to this day; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Battle
23 of San Jacinto and pay tribute to all those whose courage and
24 tenacity brought ultimate victory to the Texan cause.