

By: Parker

H.R. No. 1799

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Among the early Anglo settlers of Texas who took
2 part in the struggle for independence and in the work of developing
3 the new republic were members of the related Zumwalt, Kent, and
4 Burket families; and

5 WHEREAS, Six of these interconnected families arrived in
6 Texas from Missouri in about 1830 and settled in DeWitt's Colony,
7 located in what is now Gonzales, Lavaca, DeWitt, Guadalupe, and
8 Caldwell Counties; notable among their members were "Black" Adam
9 Zumwalt, his brother-in-law Andrew Kent, his cousin "Red" Adam
10 Zumwalt, and another relative, David Burket; and

11 WHEREAS, Before the Texas Revolution, "Black" Adam Zumwalt
12 and his family lived in the Gonzales area, and in the late spring of
13 1835, Mr. Zumwalt attended the organizational meeting of the
14 Gonzales Committee of Safety and Correspondence; the following
15 October, he and his son Andrew took part in what is considered to be
16 the first skirmish of the Texas Revolution; known as the Battle of
17 Gonzales, the confrontation saw colonists repel a Mexican force
18 sent out from San Antonio to retrieve a cannon that had earlier been
19 lent to them for their protection against the Indians; on February
20 1, 1836, Mr. Zumwalt participated in the election of delegates to
21 the Convention of 1836, which adopted the Texas Declaration of
22 Independence, and after the fall of the Alamo on March 6, 1836,
23 General Sam Houston appointed him to manage the evacuation of
24 families living along the Lavaca River; while Mr. Zumwalt was

1 engaged in that duty, his son Andrew participated in the Battle of
2 San Jacinto; "Black" Adam Zumwalt subsequently served in the Texas
3 Army from June 6 to September 6, 1836; and

4 WHEREAS, After his return to the Gonzales area in 1837, Mr.
5 Zumwalt moved his family to a site in present-day Lavaca County that
6 became known as Zumwalt Settlement; elected captain of a militia
7 company, a post he held for some eight years, he took part in
8 various punitive expeditions against groups of marauding Indians,
9 including the large force that carried out the Linnville Raid of
10 1840; he also fought in the Battle of Salado Creek, an engagement
11 that took place on September 18, 1842, between Texas forces led by
12 Mathew Caldwell and Mexican troops under the command of General
13 Adrian Woll, who had just seized San Antonio; in that encounter the
14 Texans prevailed, and General Woll withdrew to Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, Sometime during the 1850s, Mr. Zumwalt moved to
16 Fayette County, where he became associated with the settlements of
17 Cistern, Plum or Elm Grove, and Slack's Well; he died in Fayette
18 County on July 11, 1872; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Zumwalt's brother-in-law Andrew Kent took
20 possession of a league of land on the west bank of the Lavaca River;
21 he fought in the Battle of Gonzales, alongside his son David, and
22 later participated in electing delegates to the Convention of 1836;
23 on February 27, 1836, he joined some 30 other members of the
24 Gonzales Ranging Company of Mounted Volunteers and set off to aid
25 the Texas troops besieged in the Alamo, where he perished during
26 General Santa Anna's final assault on the fort; and

27 WHEREAS, "Red" Adam Zumwalt settled with his family in

1 Gonzales, where he built a residence that also served as a boarding
2 house/hotel and restaurant; the establishment was located on St.
3 James Street, across from the municipal plaza; Mr. Zumwalt also
4 voted in the election that chose delegates to the Convention of
5 1836, and he assisted in evacuating Gonzales-area families during
6 the Runaway Scrape; by 1837 or 1838 he and his family had returned
7 to Gonzales, which General Houston had ordered his men to burn, and
8 began to rebuild their lives; Mr. Zumwalt is believed to have
9 provided shelter and meals to many other returning settlers while
10 they were in the midst of erecting their new homes; "Red" Adam
11 Zumwalt also held title to a league of land north of Gonzales on the
12 San Marcos River, where he developed a farm and ranch; he died there
13 on March 9, 1853; and

14 WHEREAS, David Burket, who married into the extended Zumwalt
15 family, settled initially on property adjacent to Gonzales; he is
16 thought to have helped organize the Gonzales Committee of Safety
17 and Correspondence, and he subsequently voted for delegates to the
18 Convention of 1836; in the wake of General Santa Anna's victory at
19 the Alamo, he joined "Red" Adam Zumwalt in overseeing the exodus of
20 families from the Gonzales area; after returning to Gonzales in
21 1838, he settled with his family south of town, on the Guadalupe
22 River; Mr. Burket died on December 7, 1845; and

23 WHEREAS, The lives of these pioneer settlers are a vivid
24 reminder of the remarkable fortitude that enabled Texans of that
25 era to persevere in the face of extreme hardship and danger, and
26 their contributions and sacrifice are indeed deserving of
27 commemoration; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the lives of "Black" Adam
3 Zumwalt, Andrew Kent, "Red" Adam Zumwalt, and David Burket for the
4 roles they played at one of the most fateful junctures in the
5 history of Texas.