

By: Schwertner

H.R. No. 2527

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, November 7, 2011, marks the 100th anniversary of the  
2 dedication of the Williamson County Courthouse; and

3 WHEREAS, County residents voted in 1909 to approve a \$100,000  
4 bond issue for the construction of a new courthouse building;  
5 designed by C. H. Page and Brother, an Austin architectural firm,  
6 the courthouse was built by contractor William C. Whitney in the  
7 Beaux-Arts style and features polished marble wainscoting  
8 throughout; the handsome clock faces located in the dome were  
9 manufactured by the E. Howard Clock Company in Boston; and

10 WHEREAS, On October 6, 1910, the Masons presided over an  
11 elaborate cornerstone-laying ceremony, and the building was  
12 dedicated by the county bar association on November 7, 1911; it  
13 later underwent three major renovations and many modifications,  
14 including the unfortunate demolition of key architectural features  
15 in 1966; after the turn of the 21st century, preservation-minded  
16 citizens and officials began working with the Texas Historical  
17 Commission to return the courthouse to its original splendor,  
18 removing a brick parapet and replacing the original terra cotta  
19 triangular pediments and balustrades; moreover, the famous 26th  
20 District Courtroom, with its two-story ceiling and balcony, now  
21 looks as it did when Williamson County district attorney Dan Moody  
22 successfully tried members of the Ku Klux Klan in 1924; the building  
23 won the Best Restoration award from the Texas Downtown Association  
24 President's Award Program in 2008; and

1           WHEREAS, The Williamson County Courthouse stands as a  
2 testament to the pride area citizens take in their community and its  
3 unique social and cultural heritage; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
5 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of the Williamson  
6 County Courthouse and commend all those who have contributed to the  
7 preservation of this historic public building; and, be it further

8           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for display at the Williamson County Courthouse as an  
10 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.