

By: Hegar
(Morrison)

S.C.R. No. 11

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Accomplished Texans who serve as positive role
3 models for today's youth are deserving of special recognition, and
4 one such individual is Shiner native William Elmo Merrem, the first
5 person in the Lone Star State to become an Eagle Scout; and

6 WHEREAS, Born on May 22, 1897, Mr. Merrem was the son of Edgar
7 Jacob Merrem and Willie Crane Merrem and grew up in Shiner alongside
8 his three siblings; he joined the town's first Boy Scout troop as a
9 charter member, and on July 3, 1913, he was awarded the Eagle Badge;
10 not only was he the first Texan to receive the highest rank that
11 scouting offers, he also was the first person west of the
12 Mississippi River to do so, and he joined that elite group when
13 there were fewer than 50 Eagle Scouts in the entire United States;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The leadership and dedication that Mr. Merrem
16 demonstrated as a Boy Scout served him well throughout his life; a
17 1914 graduate of Shiner High School, he served his nation during
18 World War I as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps; after
19 completing studies at Southwestern University, he went on to earn
20 his law degree at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law
21 and embarked on a distinguished career in business; he served as
22 vice president of the Houston Oil Company, president of the
23 Southwestern Settlement and Development Company, and founder and
24 vice president of the East Texas Pulp and Paper Company, and he held

1 prominent positions in the Texas and American Forestry
2 Associations; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Merrem and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth
4 Caldwell, were longtime residents of Houston and active members of
5 the congregation at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church; through
6 the years, he volunteered his time to assist various civic
7 initiatives, and he was a 32nd-degree Mason who devoted more than 50
8 years to the charitable work of the Shriners; after a lifetime of
9 service and achievement, he passed away on June 29, 1982, at the age
10 of 85; and

11 WHEREAS, A pioneering figure among the Boy Scouts of Texas
12 and a successful business and community leader, William Elmo Merrem
13 stands as a meaningful source of inspiration for young people, and
14 it is indeed appropriate that his legacy be celebrated and
15 appreciated throughout the Lone Star State on the anniversary of
16 his birth; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate May 22 of each year from 2011 through 2020 as
19 William Elmo Merrem Day in honor of the first Eagle Scout from
20 Texas.