

By: Hegar

S.C.R. No. 11

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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