

1-1 By: Hegar S.C.R. No. 11
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 31, 2011; February 14, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-4 March 16, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; March 16, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Accomplished Texans who serve as positive role
1-8 models for today's youth are deserving of special recognition, and
1-9 one such individual is Shiner native William Elmo Merrem, the first
1-10 person in the Lone Star State to become an Eagle Scout; and

1-11 WHEREAS, Born on May 22, 1897, Mr. Merrem was the son of Edgar
1-12 Jacob Merrem and Willie Crane Merrem and grew up in Shiner alongside
1-13 his three siblings; he joined the town's first Boy Scout troop as a
1-14 charter member, and on July 3, 1913, he was awarded the Eagle Badge;
1-15 not only was he the first Texan to receive the highest rank that
1-16 scouting offers, he also was the first person west of the
1-17 Mississippi River to do so, and he joined that elite group when
1-18 there were fewer than 50 Eagle Scouts in the entire United States;
1-19 and

1-20 WHEREAS, The leadership and dedication that Mr. Merrem
1-21 demonstrated as a Boy Scout served him well throughout his life; a
1-22 1914 graduate of Shiner High School, he served his nation during
1-23 World War I as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps; after
1-24 completing studies at Southwestern University, he went on to earn
1-25 his law degree at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law
1-26 and embarked on a distinguished career in business; he served as
1-27 vice president of the Houston Oil Company, president of the
1-28 Southwestern Settlement and Development Company, and founder and
1-29 vice president of the East Texas Pulp and Paper Company, and he held
1-30 prominent positions in the Texas and American Forestry
1-31 Associations; and

1-32 WHEREAS, Mr. Merrem and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth
1-33 Caldwell, were longtime residents of Houston and active members of
1-34 the congregation at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church; through
1-35 the years, he volunteered his time to assist various civic
1-36 initiatives, and he was a 32nd-degree Mason who devoted more than 50
1-37 years to the charitable work of the Shriners; after a lifetime of
1-38 service and achievement, he passed away on June 29, 1982, at the age
1-39 of 85; and

1-40 WHEREAS, A pioneering figure among the Boy Scouts of Texas
1-41 and a successful business and community leader, William Elmo Merrem
1-42 stands as a meaningful source of inspiration for young people, and
1-43 it is indeed appropriate that his legacy be celebrated and
1-44 appreciated throughout the Lone Star State on the anniversary of
1-45 his birth; now, therefore, be it

1-46 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-47 hereby designate May 22 of each year from 2011 through 2020 as
1-48 William Elmo Merrem Day in honor of the first Eagle Scout from
1-49 Texas.

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