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S.C.R. No. 18

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The city of Gonzales has special prominence in the
3 history of this state as the site of the first battle of the Texas
4 Revolution, and the town seeks to heighten awareness of the rich
5 heritage shared by all Texans with a number of museums it has opened
6 to tell the colorful and inspiring story of the Lone Star State; and

7 WHEREAS, Recognizing the significance of the community's
8 historical attractions, the Gonzales Texas History Museums
9 Partnership, working in conjunction with city leaders, has
10 established a history museum district that encompasses the public
11 lands between and adjacent to Saint Lawrence Street and Saint Louis
12 Street, extending from Highway 183 to Highway 90; within that area
13 are 18 sites that help illuminate our state's unique past; and

14 WHEREAS, Several of the museum district locations
15 commemorate the events surrounding that fateful day of October 2,
16 1835, when local residents took up arms against Mexican troops,
17 firing the first shots in the revolution that would lead to the
18 independence of Texas; the Gonzales Memorial Museum contains a
19 mural honoring the brave patriots who took part in the Battle of
20 Gonzales as well as an artillery piece that some believe to be the
21 legendary "Come and Take It" cannon that sparked the skirmish; the
22 limestone museum building is interesting in its own right, having
23 been constructed in the 1930s to mark the centennial of the Lone
24 Star State; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearby is the Eggleston House Museum, a
2 dogtrot-style log cabin that was built in the 1840s, and the
3 district also contains numerous other examples of historic
4 architecture; among them are the Old College, built in 1851, the Old
5 Jail Museum, which dates to the late 1800s, and the Gonzales County
6 Courthouse, constructed in the mid-1890s; and

7 WHEREAS, The Gonzales museum district encompasses a variety
8 of additional landmarks as well, including the town's seven
9 downtown squares, churches that first opened their doors at the
10 turn of the 20th century, and the 1917 Crystal Theatre; and

11 WHEREAS, These sites have long been enjoyed by visitors to
12 Gonzales, and the establishment of the museum district is sure to
13 make the town an even more popular destination in the years ahead;
14 the community offers a treasure trove of interesting and
15 informative locations that help explain how Texas was established
16 and how it has developed into the state we know today, and the
17 community's role as a center for historical tourism is indeed
18 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby designate a portion of the city of Gonzales as an official
21 Texas History Museum District.