

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 251

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to celebrate Texans Support Libraries Day on February 16, 2011, by recognizing the dedication and contributions made by librarians serving Texans in public, academic, school, and special libraries statewide; and

WHEREAS, Texas libraries date back to 1839, when Republic of Texas President Mirabeau B. Lamar established the national library of Texas, and for almost two centuries, the people of Texas have benefited from libraries; and

WHEREAS, Libraries help foster critical thinkers--a fundamental element of education--and provide opportunities for Texans to enhance their knowledge, education, careers, and quality of life through literacy, technology, job-search, and other training programs; libraries connect Texans with a wealth of electronic information resources from journals, newspapers, magazines, and books and provide powerful research tools available 24 hours a day via the Internet, resulting in more than 116.5 million searches of TexShare online resources and almost 50 million electronic documents retrieved by library users; and

WHEREAS, Texans today share 561 public libraries, ranging from Round Top, which serves 84 people, to the Houston and Dallas library systems, which serve millions, and Texans have continuous library services throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, Public libraries are the primary point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school, or work and the only free source of online access in their communities for 67 percent of Texans; and

WHEREAS, 11.9 million Texans have public library cards, and more than 80 million visits were made to Texas public libraries last year; Texas university libraries support 1.4 million students, and community-college libraries support 700,000, and Texas school libraries play an integral role in educating 4.73 million schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, Librarians understand how knowledge is organized and how to find and use information; they teach users how to discover, evaluate, and apply information effectively; they encourage Texans to explore, examine, and retrieve information; and they foster a love of reading and learning in children; and

WHEREAS, 3.3 million people attend children's programs at Texas public libraries, and the 54-year-old Texas Reading Club keeps more than 500,000 children and teens reading each summer; and

WHEREAS, Librarians work with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Texas Library Association, Friends of Libraries and Archives of Texas, and local library groups to improve access to library services, and they are tremendous sources of Texas-based knowledge; and

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WHEREAS, Today, librarians and library supporters will meet with our state's elected officials to discuss the relevance of Texas library programs and to promote the inclusion of libraries in community, education, research, and business development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby recognize February 16, 2011, as Texans Support Libraries Day and commend those associated with Texas libraries for their valuable service to the Lone Star State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Texas Library Association as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Nelson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 14, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate