

By: Branch

H.R. No. 150

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, July 26, 2013, marks the 150th anniversary of the
2 death of Sam Houston, a towering figure in Texas history; and

3 WHEREAS, Born in Virginia on March 2, 1793, Houston emigrated
4 to eastern Tennessee with his family after the death of his father,
5 and as an adolescent, he left home to live for a time among the
6 Cherokees; he joined the United States Army at the age of 20 and
7 fought the British under Andrew Jackson's command in the Battle of
8 Horseshoe Bend, receiving three near-fatal wounds; and

9 WHEREAS, Houston subsequently studied law and opened a
10 practice in Lebanon, Tennessee; with General Jackson's
11 endorsement, he was named adjutant general of the state militia,
12 and he was later elected attorney general for the District of
13 Nashville in 1818; he went on to become major general of the state
14 militia and then served two terms in the United States House of
15 Representatives before becoming governor of Tennessee; and

16 WHEREAS, In the wake of a brief, disastrous marriage, Houston
17 resigned from office and went to live among the Cherokees in what is
18 now Oklahoma; he took an active role in Native American affairs,
19 working as a peacemaker among tribes and serving as a tribal
20 emissary; after moving to Mexican Texas in 1832, he practiced law
21 and became involved in the Anglo-Texan movement for independence;
22 he served as a delegate from Nacogdoches to the Consultation of
23 1835, which appointed him major general of the Texas army; and

24 WHEREAS, In February 1836, Houston helped negotiate a treaty

1 with the Cherokees as a commissioner for the provisional
2 government; the following month, he served as a delegate from
3 Refugio to the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos, where the
4 assembly adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence and
5 appointed Houston commander in chief of the Texas army; Houston set
6 high standards for his troops, and he ultimately led them to victory
7 over the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21,
8 1836; and

9 WHEREAS, Acclaimed as "Old Sam Jacinto," Houston became the
10 first regularly elected president of the Republic of Texas; the
11 town of Houston, which was named in his honor in 1836, served as
12 capital of the Republic for most of his first administration;
13 because the constitution barred him from succeeding himself, he
14 represented San Augustine in the Texas House from 1839 to 1841
15 before returning to serve a second term as president; and

16 WHEREAS, When Texas joined the Union, Houston became one of
17 its two United States senators and served for 13 years in that
18 capacity; he was considered presidential material, but at home, his
19 staunch commitment to the Union became increasingly controversial;
20 although he was a slave owner himself, he drew the wrath of
21 proslavery elements by supporting the 1820 Missouri Compromise, the
22 1848 Oregon Bill, and the Compromise of 1850, all designed to limit
23 slavery north of latitude 36 degrees 30 minutes; in 1855, the Texas
24 Legislature officially condemned his opposition to the
25 Kansas-Nebraska Act, which repealed the Missouri Compromise, and
26 his future in the U.S. Senate was doomed; he met defeat in an 1857
27 gubernatorial campaign but was returned to the Governor's Mansion

1 two years later; and

2 WHEREAS, Houston vehemently opposed the swelling secession
3 movement during his term as governor, warning that civil war would
4 lead to the destruction of the South; desperate to avoid bloodshed
5 within Texas, however, he ultimately acquiesced to the secessionist
6 tide, but he refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Confederate
7 States of America and was removed from office; two years later, at
8 the age of 70, he succumbed to pneumonia at his home in Huntsville;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A proud Texan and a prominent, fiercely loyal
11 American, Sam Houston played a monumental role in founding the Lone
12 Star State and setting the course of its future, and his colorful
13 life and extraordinary record of public service have continued to
14 fascinate and inspire Texans to the present day; now, therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the
18 sesquicentennial of the death of Sam Houston.