

By: Kleinschmidt

H.C.R. No. 62

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In the autumn of 1835, the citizens of Gonzales
2 bravely defied the authority of the Mexican government and, by
3 their action, set Texas on an irrevocable course toward
4 independence; and

5 WHEREAS, Established in 1825 near the confluence of the San
6 Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers, Gonzales was the westernmost Anglo
7 settlement in Texas at the time; in 1831, the Mexican government
8 loaned the town a six-pounder cannon for protection against
9 Indians, but four years later, as tensions grew between Texans and
10 the Mexican government, the military commander at San Antonio de
11 Bexar, Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea, sent a corporal and five
12 soldiers to retrieve the cannon; the residents of Gonzales refused
13 to return it and took the soldiers prisoner; and

14 WHEREAS, On September 27, 1835, Colonel Ugartechea sent
15 Lieutenant Francisco de Castaneda and 100 dragoons to take back the
16 cannon; when Lieutenant Castaneda arrived on the west bank of the
17 Guadalupe, his forces were denied passage across the river by 18
18 Texan militiamen; more Texans arrived over the next several days,
19 and at sundown on October 1, Lieutenant Castaneda moved his men to
20 another camp upriver; that same night, the Texans crossed to the
21 west side of the river with their cannon and followed him; and

22 WHEREAS, Early on the morning of October 2, the Texans
23 launched a surprise attack on the Mexican forces; during a lull in
24 the fighting, Lieutenant Castaneda and a party of Texans led by John

1 Henry Moore met for a parley in the middle of the battlefield; when
2 Lieutenant Castaneda asked for the return of the cannon, the Texans
3 gestured to the weapon 200 yards behind them and said, "There it is,
4 come and take it"; when fighting resumed, the cannon was fired,
5 killing one of Lieutenant Castaneda's men, and the Mexicans
6 withdrew; and

7 WHEREAS, With this fateful encounter, the Texas Revolution
8 began; Gonzales became known as the "Lexington of Texas," and a
9 banner fashioned from a silk wedding dress by the women of the town,
10 which featured the defiant slogan "Come and Take It!" and an image
11 of the cannon, became the first Texas battle flag used in the
12 conflict; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, the citizens of Gonzales continue to honor
14 their community's important role in the struggle for independence
15 with their three-day "Come and Take It" festival every October, and
16 this important date in the history of the Lone Star State is truly
17 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby designate October 2 as "Come and Take It" Day; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
22 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remains in effect
23 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is passed.