

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.