

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Comal County are gathering in New
2 Braunfels on January 22, 2013, to celebrate the rededication of
3 their historic and newly renovated courthouse; and

4 WHEREAS, The county's original courthouse was built in 1860,
5 but it had fallen into disrepair by 1897, when the county commission
6 hired James Riely Gordon to design a new one; a celebrated architect
7 of many Texas public buildings, Mr. Gordon crafted a courthouse in
8 the Romanesque style with rounded pavilion entrances at the four
9 corners as well as a central atrium for ventilation during the Texas
10 summers; and

11 WHEREAS, The cornerstone was laid in May 1898 containing,
12 among many other items, a copy of a Galveston newspaper, a history
13 of Comal County, a dance card, and beer bottle labels from the city
14 brewery; constructed of locally quarried limestone, the courthouse
15 was dedicated on January 22, 1899, with a ceremony featuring
16 performances by Schulz's Orchestra and the New Braunfels Men's
17 Singing Society; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1931, a three-story jail and an extension of the
19 district courtroom designed by local architect Jeremiah Schmidt
20 were attached to the building, and in 1951, Mr. Schmidt designed a
21 further addition, a vault for the county clerk's records; the
22 courthouse was remodeled and rewired in 1966, when air-conditioning
23 and an elevator were installed, and there were further renovations
24 in 1987; and

1 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Comal County
2 Commissioners Court, the current \$8.6 million restoration project
3 began in the summer of 2011, when the 1931 and 1951 additions were
4 removed; the project's architects, Volz & Associates, along with
5 the Texas Historical Commission and RBR Construction, worked for
6 the next year and a half to restore the courthouse to its original
7 appearance while modernizing its electrical, communications,
8 plumbing, and air-conditioning systems; and

9 WHEREAS, Some original fixtures were returned to the
10 building, including an arch-top entrance window that had been
11 hanging in a local restaurant since 1977, as well as the original
12 judge's bench; 60 pieces of historic furniture were also returned
13 to the courthouse, and former fixtures that could not be located
14 were replicated, including a massive spiral staircase and 164
15 theater-style seats for the commissioners courtroom and the
16 first-floor meeting room; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Comal County Courthouse
18 has served not only as the seat of government, but as a record in
19 stone of the county's rich history and a monument to its people's
20 German heritage, and it is indeed a privilege to take special notice
21 of the rebirth of this splendid building; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the restoration and rededication of
24 the Comal County Courthouse and commend all those involved in the
25 project for their skill, commitment, and hard work; and, be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 68

1 prepared for the citizens of Comal County as an expression of high
2 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 68

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 68 was adopted by the House on
February 18, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House