

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 109

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Grimes County are joining together at
2 the State Capitol to celebrate Grimes County Day on January 23,
3 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, A landscape of lush forests and verdant savannah,
5 the area that would later become Grimes County was inhabited by the
6 Bidai people when Europeans first arrived in the region in the late
7 1600s; it is thought that the famous French explorer La Salle met
8 his untimely end near present-day Navasota in 1687; and

9 WHEREAS, In the 1820s, Anglo settlers began to move into the
10 region, drawn by the rich bottomlands along the Navasota and Brazos
11 Rivers; one of the first cotton crops in Texas was planted in the
12 county, and with Anderson as its county seat, Grimes County was
13 established in 1846 and named after Jesse Grimes, a signer of the
14 Texas Declaration of Independence; and

15 WHEREAS, The arrival of the railroad in 1859 helped promote
16 the growth of Navasota as a center of commerce, while two spas
17 established in the 1850s, Kellum Springs and Piedmont Springs, drew
18 many visitors to the county; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, the area's prosperity is based on livestock,
20 agribusiness, and light manufacturing; the timber, lignite coal,
21 and natural gas industries also contribute to the economy of the
22 region; and

23 WHEREAS, Officially designated the Blues Capital of Texas by
24 the 79th Texas Legislature in 2005, Navasota hosts the annual

1 BluesFest to commemorate the famous blues musician and native son
2 Mance Lipscomb and to raise money for a scholarship in his name; the
3 town is equally renowned for its picturesque downtown and
4 Victorian-style houses, and its history is showcased in the Horlock
5 History Center, a restored 1892 home; and

6 WHEREAS, Anderson boasts the striking Grimes County
7 Courthouse, constructed of handmade bricks in 1894 and restored in
8 2002; the town is also home to the Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site,
9 a restored 19th-century stagecoach stop that hosted such famous
10 figures as Sam Houston, Robert E. Lee, and Stonewall Jackson; and

11 WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy the colorful
12 Texas Renaissance Festival in Plantersville every October and
13 November; another popular attraction is Gibbons Creek Reservoir,
14 which offers ample recreational opportunities for fishing,
15 camping, boating, and waterskiing; and

16 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they look forward
17 to a bright future, the people of Grimes County are justifiably
18 proud of their heritage and achievements, and their county's many
19 contributions to the ongoing development of the Lone Star State are
20 indeed deserving of special honor; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize January 23, 2013, as Grimes County Day
23 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
24 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.