

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 476

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Washington County are gathering
2 in Austin on February 26, 2013, to celebrate the unique role their
3 county has played in the history and ongoing development of the Lone
4 Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, This region of rolling prairie lies just west of the
6 Brazos River and remained unsettled until 1821, when members of
7 Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred began to homestead the area;
8 during the Texas Revolution, the ferry crossing known as
9 Washington-on-the-Brazos became the headquarters of General Sam
10 Houston and the site of the Convention of 1836, when 59 delegates
11 from throughout the region declared the independence of Texas and
12 drafted its constitution; the town of Washington was the capital of
13 the new republic from 1842 to 1845; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington County was organized in 1837, and Brenham
15 became the county seat in 1844; higher education was important in
16 the area even in those early days; Baylor University was founded in
17 the county in 1846 and Soule University was founded in Chappell Hill
18 in 1855; today, Blinn College in Brenham carries on this proud
19 tradition; and

20 WHEREAS, Washington County's central role in the history of
21 Texas draws visitors from across the state and nation; the Star of
22 the Republic Museum, Independence Hall, and the Barrington Living
23 History Farm at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site
24 vividly evoke the years of the Texas Republic; the Chappell Hill

1 Historic District includes a historical museum, a folk art
2 collection, a Masonic cemetery where descendants of William
3 B. Travis are buried, and the site of the "Official Bluebonnet
4 Festival of Texas" each year in April; the building housing the
5 Brenham Heritage Museum is also a venerable landmark and is listed
6 on the National Register of Historic Places; and

7 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the recreational
8 opportunities of Lake Somerville, three wineries, more than 40 bed
9 and breakfast lodging properties, the Antique Rose Emporium's
10 eight-acre rose and herb garden, and scenic country roads where
11 wildflowers bloom in profusion; every year, thousands of people
12 take the tour of Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham, where one of the
13 nation's best-selling brands of ice cream is made; visitors to the
14 county seat can also walk through the downtown historic district,
15 which features vintage stone storefronts, a host of shops and
16 eateries, and the plays and musical productions at Unity Theatre;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Honoring their rich history as they continue to work
19 on building an even brighter future, the residents of Brenham and
20 Washington County have many reasons to be proud of the place they
21 call home; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2013, as Washington
24 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
25 delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable stay
26 in Austin.