

By: Kleinschmidt

H.R. No. 622

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than 175 years, the "Come and Take It"  
2 Cannon from the Battle of Gonzales in 1835 has been an enduring  
3 symbol of the Texas struggle for independence from Mexico; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1831, Green DeWitt, a Texan colonist and the  
5 founder of the town of Gonzales, requested an artillery piece from  
6 the Mexican government as defense against hostile Indians; Ramon  
7 Musquiz, the Mexican governor in San Antonio de Bexar, provided the  
8 town with a cannon known as a six-pounder, because it fired a  
9 six-pound shell; and

10           WHEREAS, Four years later, as tensions mounted between the  
11 colonists and the government of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the  
12 military commander at Bexar, Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea, sent a  
13 corporal and five soldiers to retrieve the six-pounder; the  
14 colonists in Gonzales refused to return it and imprisoned the  
15 soldiers; in response, Colonel Ugartechea sent Lieutenant  
16 Francisco de Castaneda and 100 dragoons to Gonzales to take the  
17 cannon by force; and

18           WHEREAS, Arriving on the west bank of the Guadalupe River on  
19 September 29, 1835, Lieutenant Castaneda found his way blocked by  
20 high water and 18 defiant Texan militiamen; over the next few days,  
21 the Texans were reinforced by more than a hundred volunteers from  
22 neighboring communities; at sundown on October 1, Castaneda moved  
23 his men seven miles upriver, and late that same night, the Texans  
24 crossed the river with the cannon; early the next morning, they

1 launched a surprise attack against the Mexican troops; and

2           WHEREAS, During a lull in the fighting, Castaneda met a party  
3 of Texans under the command of John Henry Moore for a parley in the  
4 middle of the battlefield, and when Castaneda demanded that the  
5 cannon be returned, the Texans gestured to the six-pounder, 200  
6 yards away, and said, "There it is, come and take it"; when the  
7 battle resumed, the Texans fired the cannon once, killing a Mexican  
8 soldier, and Lieutenant Castaneda withdrew his forces to Bexar;  
9 that fateful cannon shot marked the beginning of the Texas War for  
10 Independence; and

11           WHEREAS, Today the city of Gonzales continues to honor its  
12 role as the "Lexington of Texas," and the famous "Come and Take It"  
13 Cannon is a featured exhibit in the Gonzales Memorial Museum; this  
14 remarkable historical artifact remains a powerful symbol of the  
15 Lone Star State's spirit of independence and determination, and it  
16 is indeed fitting that it receive special notice; now, therefore,  
17 be it

18           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize the "Come and Take It" Cannon of the  
20 Battle of Gonzales as a Texas Treasure and express sincere  
21 gratitude to the people of Gonzales for maintaining this symbol of  
22 Texas pride; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for the citizens of Gonzales as an expression of high  
25 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.