

By: Raney

H.R. No. 691

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Since 1950, the Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of  
2 Texas have designated a week in March to pay tribute to our public  
3 school system; and

4 WHEREAS, Many of the state's earliest leaders were Masons who  
5 led the movement for public education; these included Stephen F.  
6 Austin and Mirabeau B. Lamar, nicknamed the "Father of Texas  
7 Education" for successfully advocating for a permanent endowment to  
8 support public education; thanks to his efforts, such a fund  
9 continues to supplement the education budget today; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to their influence in shaping policy,  
11 Freemasons also established schools across Texas, often opening the  
12 doors of their lodges to any person with a desire for learning; they  
13 championed access to education for all at a crucial point in Texas  
14 history, and that dedication to public schools has remained an  
15 important focus of the organization; current members contribute to  
16 their communities by recognizing teachers with awards and providing  
17 scholarships to deserving students; and

18 WHEREAS, Texas public schools prepare a diverse student  
19 population for the unique challenges of the 21st century, and the  
20 success of these institutions relies on the hard work and  
21 cooperation of numerous professionals and volunteers alike; and

22 WHEREAS, A quality education is vital to the prosperity of  
23 individuals, families, communities, and the entire state, and it is  
24 indeed appropriate to pause and acknowledge the contributions of

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1 public schools to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
3 Legislature hereby recognize March 4 through 8, 2013, as Public  
4 Schools Week and encourage all Texans to express their appreciation  
5 for the invaluable work of these public institutions.