

By: Bell

H.R. No. 693

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Hempstead are gathering in Austin
2 to celebrate Hempstead Day at the State Capitol on March 4, 2013;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, On December 29, 1856, Dr. Richard Rodgers Peebles
5 and James W. McDade created the Hempstead Town Company to sell lots
6 at the terminus of the planned Houston and Texas Central Railway;
7 named after Dr. Peebles's brother-in-law, Dr. G. S. B. Hempstead,
8 the town was incorporated in 1858; and

9 WHEREAS, Hempstead soon became a junction point for two
10 railroads, which increased its importance as a distribution center;
11 during the Civil War, the town was home to a Confederate hospital
12 and a military supply center; Hempstead became the Waller County
13 seat in 1873, and during a tumultuous period around the turn of the
14 20th century, the town earned the nickname "Six-Shooter Junction";
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The city's economy originally depended on cotton,
17 but in the 1900s, produce shipping and truck hauling became more
18 important; for a time up until the 1940s, Hempstead was known as the
19 largest shipper of watermelons in the United States; today it
20 continues to be an agribusiness and manufacturing center, and it
21 still ships watermelons across the nation during peak season; and

22 WHEREAS, Hempstead continues to grow, thanks to its proximity
23 to Houston and its favorable location at the intersection of
24 Highway 290 and Highway 6; opportunities for higher education are

1 afforded by Blinn College and by such nearby institutions as Texas
2 A&M University and Prairie View A&M University; and

3 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike delight in touring the
4 picturesque Liendo Plantation, which was home to Texas sculptor
5 Elisabet Ney from 1873 to 1911; the city's annual Watermelon
6 Festival, sponsored by the Hempstead Chamber of Commerce, features
7 a barbecue cook-off, a quilt exhibition, a car and tractor show, and
8 musical performances, while every winter the Hempstead Festival of
9 Lights, also staged by the chamber, creates a festive mood with food
10 and craft booths on the square and a lighted parade; and

11 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work to build
12 a bright future, the people of Hempstead may indeed take great pride
13 in the unique place their city holds in the history of the Lone Star
14 State; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize March 4, 2013, as Hempstead Day at the
17 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best
18 wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.