

By: Branch

H.R. No. 860

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, April 21, 2013, marks the 177th anniversary of the  
2 Battle of San Jacinto, the culminating engagement of the Texas  
3 Revolution; and

4           WHEREAS, After a decade of sporadic clashes between Texas  
5 colonists and Mexican officials, the movement toward rebellion  
6 picked up increasing momentum in the fall of 1835; Antonio Lopez de  
7 Santa Anna, the president of Mexico, having abrogated the  
8 federalist Constitution of 1824 and assumed autocratic power,  
9 decided to reestablish troops at posts in Texas that had been  
10 evacuated in 1832; as part of that plan, General Martin Perfecto de  
11 Cos arrived in San Antonio with a battalion of infantry on October  
12 9, 1835; an army of Texas volunteers quickly moved to lay siege to  
13 San Antonio, in what became the first major campaign of the  
14 revolution; General Cos finally capitulated on December 9, 1835,  
15 and he and his troops were allowed to withdraw to Mexico; and

16           WHEREAS, Determined to suppress the rebellion, General Santa  
17 Anna led an army of some 6,000 men into Texas in early 1836,  
18 crossing the Rio Grande near present-day Eagle Pass; at the same  
19 time, a second Mexican force, under General Jose de Urrea, advanced  
20 into Texas farther to the east; while General Santa Anna besieged  
21 some 180 Texas troops at the Alamo, a convention of Texas delegates  
22 convened at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1, 1836, and on March  
23 2 adopted a declaration of independence; two days later, the  
24 convention appointed Sam Houston, one of the delegates, to take

1 command of the Texas army; and

2 WHEREAS, General Houston left immediately to join Texas  
3 troops gathered in Gonzales; when he reached that town, he learned  
4 that the Alamo had fallen and that a division of General Santa  
5 Anna's army was marching in his direction; given that the effective  
6 strength of his own force numbered only 374, as well as the fact  
7 that his men were poorly provisioned and largely untrained, he  
8 began a withdrawal toward the northeast, playing for time; and

9 WHEREAS, Elsewhere, the Texans were meeting with successive  
10 defeats; the most shocking of those was the loss of James W. Fannin  
11 and some 400 men, who were captured and then executed on March 27 in  
12 what became known as the Goliad Massacre; and

13 WHEREAS, In April, General Houston halted his retreat at the  
14 Brazos River and spent two weeks drilling his troops; a short time  
15 later, on April 20, calculating that the time for battle had come at  
16 last, he staked out a position near the confluence of Buffalo Bayou  
17 and the San Jacinto River; later that same day, General Santa Anna  
18 and his army caught up to the Texans and established their own  
19 position; the following morning, General Cos arrived with an  
20 additional body of soldiers, bringing the total strength of the  
21 Mexican army to perhaps 1,200 or more, as opposed to the  
22 approximately 900 men under General Houston's command; and

23 WHEREAS, Confident that he had the Texans on the defensive,  
24 General Santa Anna planned to launch an attack on April 22; on the  
25 afternoon of the 21st, however, while the Mexican army was resting,  
26 General Houston drew up his troops in battle formation; General  
27 Santa Anna had apparently posted no sentries, and a swell of land

1 between the two armies hid the Texans from view; and

2       WHEREAS, At the given signal, the Texans advanced across a  
3 mile of open prairie toward the Mexican army, becoming visible only  
4 when they reached within about 200 yards of the Mexican camp; crying  
5 "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad," they took General Santa  
6 Anna's troops completely by surprise; the battle lasted 18 minutes,  
7 according to Sam Houston's report, but the killing continued for  
8 about an hour afterward; in the end, Texan losses stood at 9 dead  
9 and mortally wounded, with 630 Mexican soldiers killed and 730  
10 taken prisoner; General Santa Anna himself was captured the  
11 following day; and

12       WHEREAS, With the Battle of San Jacinto, the long colonial  
13 period of Texas history, stretching as far back as the 16th century,  
14 came to an end; Texas would subsequently go on to be an independent  
15 republic for nine years before joining the Union in 1845; and

16       WHEREAS, The Battle of San Jacinto dramatically changed the  
17 course of Texas history, and the story of how an outnumbered army of  
18 volunteers ultimately prevailed against General Santa Anna and his  
19 troops continues to inspire a special sense of pride among Texans to  
20 this day; now, therefore, be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby commemorate the 177th anniversary of the Battle  
23 of San Jacinto and pay tribute to all those whose courage and  
24 tenacity brought ultimate victory to the Texan cause.