

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1161

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas State Capitol is 125 years old in 2013, and  
2 this special anniversary represents a fitting opportunity to  
3 celebrate a truly unique Texas landmark; and

4           WHEREAS, The fourth capitol building in Austin, it is a  
5 striking example of Renaissance Revival architecture that was  
6 modeled on the U.S. Capitol and financed by a grant of three million  
7 acres of land in the Panhandle; it is constructed out of red granite  
8 quarried in Burnet County and transported to Austin by a specially  
9 built narrow-gauge railway; and

10           WHEREAS, The project's final feature, a statue of the Goddess  
11 of Liberty, was placed atop the dome on February 26, 1888, and on  
12 April 21, the Capitol was opened to the public for the first time;  
13 it contained 392 rooms, 18 vaults, 924 windows, and 404 doors; the  
14 furnishings for the house and senate chambers were installed in  
15 1889; and

16           WHEREAS, Over the next century, the Capitol was frequently  
17 updated and renovated; impressive paintings of the battles of the  
18 Alamo and San Jacinto were installed in the early 1900s, a post  
19 office opened in the building in 1908, and in 1922, an  
20 electronically controlled voting apparatus was set up in the house  
21 chamber; throughout the years, monuments to Texas cowboys, war  
22 veterans, and Tejano pioneers have been among the statues situated  
23 on the Capitol's grounds; and

24           WHEREAS, In February 1983, a fire severely damaged the

1 Capitol's East Wing and led to the creation of the State  
2 Preservation Board, which developed a master plan for a major  
3 restoration of the building; work began in 1990 for a  
4 665,000-square-foot underground annex, and over the next seven  
5 years, the Capitol's exterior, interior, and grounds were  
6 extensively renovated; the Capitol was rededicated on April 21,  
7 1995; and

8       WHEREAS, Today, the State Capitol serves both as the seat of  
9 government in Texas and as a destination for visitors from across  
10 the state and nation and around the world, who come to appreciate  
11 the building's beauty and dignity and to learn about the  
12 fascinating history of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Texas  
15 State Capitol.