

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On September 1, 2013, McDonald Observatory in Jeff
2 Davis County is initiating a yearlong celebration of the 75th
3 anniversary of the dedication of its first telescope and the 50th
4 anniversary of its affiliation with The University of Texas at
5 Austin; and

6 WHEREAS, One of the great centers for astronomical research
7 and education in the world, McDonald Observatory was founded as the
8 result of a bequest by Texas banker William Johnson McDonald and
9 situated far from city lights on Mount Locke in the Davis Mountains,
10 under the clear, dark skies of West Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, The observatory's first instrument, a 2.1-meter
12 reflecting telescope, was dedicated on May 5, 1939; it was the
13 second-largest telescope in the world at the time, and it was later
14 named for the observatory's first director, the eminent Russian
15 astronomer Otto Struve, who served from 1932 until 1950; originally
16 run under contract by the University of Chicago, the observatory
17 was taken over by The University of Texas in 1963; the first UT
18 director was Dr. Harlan J. Smith, who served for the next quarter of
19 a century; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Otto Struve Telescope has been
21 joined by the 2.7-meter Harlan J. Smith Telescope on Mount Locke
22 and the 9.2-meter Hobby-Eberly Telescope on the adjacent Mount
23 Fowlkes, as well as by a variety of smaller, more specialized
24 instruments; astronomers from around the world have used these

1 telescopes to make important discoveries about planetary systems,
2 stellar spectroscopy, the interstellar medium, and extragalactic
3 astronomy; and

4 WHEREAS, During the observatory's anniversary year, the
5 Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment (HETDEX) will map the
6 three-dimensional positions of 1 million galaxies up to 11 million
7 light years away, yielding the largest map of the universe ever
8 produced and helping to establish the nature of dark energy, one of
9 the greatest mysteries in science today; The University of Texas is
10 also a partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope project, which will
11 create a new generation of earth-based telescopes using 7 mirrors
12 to make up an optical surface 80 feet across, with 10 times the
13 resolving power of the Hubble Space Telescope; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to its leadership in research, McDonald
15 Observatory is one of the Lone Star State's great resources for
16 teachers, students, and the public; 60,000 visitors a year enjoy
17 the observatory tour, the exhibits in the Frank N. Bash Visitors
18 Center, and the public star-viewing parties every Tuesday, Friday,
19 and Saturday; the observatory regularly hosts continuing education
20 programs for teachers and activities for K-12 students; and

21 WHEREAS, McDonald Observatory also reaches a national
22 audience with its popular *StarDate* radio program, the
23 longest-running science feature in the country, playing daily on
24 more than 300 stations nationwide; *StarDate* magazine, originally
25 founded as *McDonald Observatory News* in 1973, has been a color,
26 bimonthly magazine since 1988, and the *StarDate* website offers
27 sky-watching tips and news about the observatory to people around

1 the world; and

2 WHEREAS, For three quarters of a century, McDonald
3 Observatory has actively participated in some of the most
4 staggering scientific discoveries of modern times and enriched the
5 lives of countless visitors with its innovative education programs,
6 and its continuing efforts to push the boundaries of the human
7 understanding of the cosmos are truly worthy of recognition on this
8 special anniversary; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of the
11 dedication of the first telescope at McDonald Observatory and
12 extend to the observatory's scientists, technicians, and staff
13 sincere best wishes for continued success with their exciting work;
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for McDonald Observatory as an expression of high regard
17 by the Texas House of Representatives.

Nevarez

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1392

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1392 was adopted by the House on April 23, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House