

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1814

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas is a premier tourist destination, drawing some
2 215 million travelers annually from every state in the country as
3 well as from nations around the globe; and

4 WHEREAS, From the rugged mountains of Big Bend Country to the
5 sweeping beaches of the Gulf Coast, Texas has an expansive and
6 diverse array of big cities, small towns, and outdoor escapes, as
7 well as a host of festive events that showcase the state's unique
8 charm and spirit; and

9 WHEREAS, The rich heritage of the Lone Star State is a point
10 of pride for many Texans, and numerous historical sites provide a
11 close-up look at the state's storied past; one of the most visited
12 of these attractions is the Mission District of San Antonio,
13 featuring the world-famous Alamo that draws more than 2.5 million
14 people each year; other prominent sites include frontier-era forts
15 and ranches, the San Jacinto Battleground, the USS Texas
16 battleship, and our very own Texas Capitol; popular museums focused
17 on Texas history include the Bob Bullock Story of Texas Museum just
18 a few blocks away from the statehouse, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame
19 and Museum in Waco, and numerous other exhibitions that reflect the
20 developments that have shaped the state we know today; and

21 WHEREAS, NASA's Space Center Houston showcases more recent
22 accomplishments and offers interactive displays and
23 behind-the-scenes tours that allow visitors to learn about
24 America's manned space program; Texas has the rare distinction of

1 being home to three presidential library and museum complexes; the
2 most recent of these, the newly opened George W. Bush Presidential
3 Center, adds to the many attractions located in Dallas, a city also
4 renowned for hosting the State Fair of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Further opportunities abound in Fort Worth's famed
6 Cultural District, which includes the Kimbell Art Museum, the Amon
7 Carter Museum, the Modern Art Museum, and Bass Performance Hall;
8 smaller cities can likewise offer outstanding theatrical
9 experiences, as visitors can discover as they enjoy operas and
10 dramas at the Lutchter Theater for the Performing Arts in Orange or
11 experience Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre in Odessa; moreover,
12 music aficionados of all persuasions flock to Austin, which affirms
13 its status as the self-proclaimed "Live Music Capital of the World"
14 with a multitude of annual concerts and festivals; and

15 WHEREAS, For nature lovers, few places can compare to the
16 panoramic vistas of Big Bend National Park, which combines soaring
17 peaks with deep chasms carved by the Rio Grande; notable as well are
18 the colorful rock formations in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the
19 towering forests of the Big Thicket, and the many underground
20 caverns located around the state; moreover, the Texas coast offers
21 some of the best opportunities for bird-watching in the Western
22 Hemisphere, and with a detour to Galveston, visitors can encounter
23 the splendor of Moody Gardens and its simulated rainforest; and

24 WHEREAS, Among the most popular vacation cities in the
25 Coastal Bend and the state at large is Corpus Christi; in keeping
26 with its setting, the "Sparkling City by the Sea" is an ideal place
27 to view exotic ocean fauna at the Texas State Aquarium, and the

1 nearby Padre Island National Seashore similarly highlights the
2 wonders of the area habitat; moreover, the South Texas Botanical
3 Gardens & Nature Center is an equally dazzling sight, with its 180
4 acres of tropical flowers and butterflies; visitors can also
5 experience the Art Museum of South Texas, the Corpus Christi Museum
6 of Science and History, and the USS *Lexington* aircraft carrier, and
7 the city is a favorite locale as well for youth and amateur sporting
8 events; each year, approximately 7.4 million people collectively
9 spend more than 18.5 million days in Corpus Christi, thereby
10 infusing over \$1.1 billion into the local economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Tourism is likewise a mainstay of the state economy
12 as a whole, with travel spending totaling more than \$65 billion in
13 2012, the most successful year to date; these dollars have
14 supported some 564,000 jobs and generated nearly \$4.4 billion in
15 state and local tax revenue, in addition to bolstering businesses
16 related to transportation, retail sales, restaurants, and
17 entertainment; and

18 WHEREAS, With its fascinating history, majestic landscapes,
19 and vibrant communities, Texas enjoys a well-deserved reputation
20 as a dynamic and compelling destination, and it is indeed fitting to
21 recognize the essential role that travel and tourism play in our
22 state's prosperity; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize April 30, 2013, as Tourism Day,
25 commend all those associated with that sector of the economy for
26 their efforts, and encourage residents and visitors alike to
27 explore the many attractions that Texas has to offer.