

By: Price

H.R. No. 2816

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, November 28, 2013, marks the annual celebration of  
2 Thanksgiving, an occasion when Americans gather among loved ones  
3 and recount the year's bounties and blessings; and

4           WHEREAS, Thanksgiving is among our oldest and most cherished  
5 traditions, a holiday whose history intertwines closely with the  
6 narrative of our nation and whose spirit of fellowship and goodwill  
7 has endured through all times of triumph and uncertainty; and

8           WHEREAS, Its origins can be traced nearly four centuries ago  
9 to the year 1620, when the Pilgrims made landfall on Plymouth Rock;  
10 finding themselves inadequately prepared for the harsh New England  
11 winter, they took refuge in prayer and were at last assisted by a  
12 tribe of Native Americans, whose knowledge of the land helped them  
13 to reap a plentiful harvest; the grateful settlers declared a  
14 three-day feast to honor the kindness of their newfound friends and  
15 to acknowledge the grace of God in seeing them through their time of  
16 hardship; and

17           WHEREAS, Thanksgiving was first observed in the fledgling  
18 United States in 1789, one year after the adoption of the  
19 Constitution; during the inaugural session of Congress, a  
20 resolution was put forth calling on President George Washington to  
21 enact "a day of public thanksgiving" to God for allowing the  
22 American people to establish a peaceful rule of government;  
23 President Washington agreed, and in his first proclamation to the  
24 nation, invited Americans to reflect on the gifts of tranquility,

1 unity, and prosperity bestowed on them; and

2 WHEREAS, It was decades later, when the fate of the union was  
3 imperiled during the dark days of the Civil War, that President  
4 Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Thanksgiving Day proclamation  
5 calling for "the Almighty hand" to heal and restore the nation;  
6 since that time, a presidential Thanksgiving proclamation has been  
7 issued by each of his successors over the past 150 years; and

8 WHEREAS, On this most American of holidays, individuals from  
9 all walks of life cast aside troubles and disagreements to treasure  
10 the comforts of hearth and kin; mindful of the freedom and security  
11 that we continue to enjoy, Americans honor the service and  
12 sacrifice of members of our armed forces and all those at home who  
13 confront danger to ensure the safety of their communities; we  
14 extend thanks to the many people who enrich our lives in ways great  
15 and small, and we strive to share our abundance with fellow citizens  
16 in need; and

17 WHEREAS, Signifying the bonds of faith, friendship, and  
18 family from which we have always drawn our deepest strength,  
19 Thanksgiving is redolent of the brighter dawn that has always  
20 awaited us, and it is a great pleasure to join with our countrymen  
21 and countrywomen to reflect on this historic and joyous occasion;  
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
24 Legislature hereby commemorate Thanksgiving 2013.