

By: Price

H.R. No. 2831

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On December 25, 2014, many Texans will join in
2 worship and in fellowship as they celebrate the joyous occasion
3 known as Christmas; and

4 WHEREAS, Observed by Christians all across the world,
5 Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whose
6 arrival on earth is heralded as a promise of salvation for
7 humankind; after more than two millennia, Christ's example
8 continues to serve as a model of generosity and compassion and as a
9 guiding presence in the lives of countless people; and

10 WHEREAS, Although Christmas has a longstanding history in the
11 United States, the breadth of its popularity has grown considerably
12 since the earliest days of our nation's founding; the Christmas
13 tradition familiar to us today arose during the 19th century, and
14 most markedly in the years of rapid industrialization following the
15 Civil War; at a time of national unrest and uncertainty, a holiday
16 reminiscent of a simpler life, suffused by the fundamental spirit
17 of peace and goodwill, offered comfort and spoke to the most fervent
18 prayers of all Americans; by 1870, the observance of Christmas had
19 become so widespread that the day was declared a national holiday;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Modern-day Christmas evokes images of families
22 gathering by the warmth of the hearth, of city streets adorned with
23 lights, of tinsel-strewn trees, and of such confections as
24 gingerbread and eggnog; many present-day customs are derived from

1 Old World forms of celebration that have been shaped, refined, and
2 interwoven with more recent practices, like the exchange of
3 presents, to yield a wealth of festivities that are definitively
4 American; and

5 WHEREAS, Amid the bustle that now attends the holidays, the
6 original significance of Christmas nonetheless reveals itself;
7 more than any other time of the year, the Christmas season calls
8 forth a heightened sense of charity, as individuals share what they
9 have to help alleviate the needs of others; the holiday also invites
10 celebrants to set aside worldly cares, enjoy the company of loved
11 ones, and rejoice in the heartening gift that is faith; and

12 WHEREAS, The simple story of a child born in a humble manger
13 has endured and inspired generations, and the scriptural lessons of
14 redemption, mercy, tolerance, and most of all, love, remain as
15 profound and transformative as ever before; as Texans share their
16 delight in this most cherished holiday and its many treasured
17 traditions, they may take to heart the virtues that define the true
18 spirit of Christmas and endeavor to carry them forward in the year
19 ahead; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature hereby commemorate Christmas Day 2014.