

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 430

WHEREAS, Proud residents of Comal County are gathering in New Braunfels on January 22, 2013, to celebrate the rededication of their historic and newly renovated courthouse; and

WHEREAS, The county's original courthouse was built in 1860, but it had fallen into disrepair by 1897, when the county commission hired James Riely Gordon to design a new one; a celebrated architect of many Texas public buildings, Mr. Gordon crafted a courthouse in the Romanesque style with rounded pavilion entrances at the four corners as well as a central atrium for ventilation during the Texas summers; and

WHEREAS, The cornerstone was laid in May 1898 containing, among many other items, a copy of a Galveston newspaper, a history of Comal County, a dance card, and beer bottle labels from the city brewery; constructed of locally quarried limestone, the courthouse was dedicated on January 22, 1899, with a ceremony featuring performances by Schulz's Orchestra and the New Braunfels Men's Singing Society; and

WHEREAS, In 1931, a three-story jail and an extension of the district courtroom designed by local architect Jeremiah Schmidt were attached to the building, and in 1951, Mr. Schmidt designed a further addition, a vault for the county clerk's records; the courthouse was remodeled and rewired in 1966, when air-conditioning and an elevator were installed, and there were further renovations in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Comal County Commissioners Court, the current \$8.6 million restoration project began in the summer of 2011, when the 1931 and 1951 additions were removed; the project's architects, Volz & Associates, along with the Texas Historical Commission and RBR Construction, worked for the next year and a half to restore the courthouse to its original appearance while modernizing its electrical, communications, plumbing, and air-conditioning systems; and

WHEREAS, Some original fixtures were returned to the building, including an arch-top entrance window that had been hanging in a local restaurant since 1977, as well as the original judge's bench; 60 pieces of historic furniture were also returned to the courthouse, and former fixtures that could not be located were replicated, including a massive spiral staircase and 164 theater-style seats for the commissioners courtroom and the first-floor meeting room; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Comal County Courthouse has served not only as the seat of government, but as a record in stone of the county's rich history and a monument to its people's German heritage, and it is indeed a privilege to take special notice of the rebirth of this splendid building; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commemorate the restoration and rededication of the Comal County Courthouse and commend all those involved in the project for their skill, commitment, and hard work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Comal County as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Campbell

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 11, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate