

By: Larson

H.C.R. No. 79

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Pop music superstar Phil Collins has donated his  
2 magnificent collection of historical artifacts to the State of  
3 Texas for display at the Alamo; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in London in 1951, Mr. Collins became  
5 interested in the Battle of the Alamo as a boy while watching the  
6 classic Walt Disney television series *Davy Crockett, King of the*  
7 *Wild Frontier*; his interest in collecting was sparked in 1994, when  
8 his wife gave him a receipt for a saddle sold by John W. Smith, a  
9 courier who departed from the Alamo before the battle and who  
10 eventually became the first mayor of San Antonio; subsequently, he  
11 received more such presents, and he began purchasing items  
12 connected to the Alamo and early Texas history; and

13           WHEREAS, On his second visit to San Antonio in 2004,  
14 Mr. Collins formed a friendship with the owner of the History Shop,  
15 located just a short distance from the mission; the ground under the  
16 store had never been excavated, so Mr. Collins arranged for and  
17 participated in a historical dig that recovered a host of  
18 significant objects; in addition, he made possible the installation  
19 in the History Shop of a large diorama of the Alamo compound, and he  
20 recorded narration that enhances its depiction of the positions of  
21 Texian defenders during the attack; he also recognized the  
22 importance of George Nelson's book *The Alamo: An Illustrated*  
23 *History* and funded two reprintings of the work; and

24           WHEREAS, In 2009, Mr. Collins was named an honorary member of

1 a chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and was featured as a  
2 guest speaker at the Remembrance Ceremony hosted by the Alamo  
3 Defenders Descendants Association; he was subsequently awarded an  
4 honorary doctorate in history by McMurry University; moreover, he  
5 authored a beautifully illustrated book, *The Alamo and Beyond: A*  
6 *Collector's Journey*, which received a 2013 Publication Award from  
7 the San Antonio Conservation Society; and

8         WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Collins assembled what is now  
9 considered the world's largest private collection of Alamo and  
10 Texas Revolution artifacts; it includes hundreds of documents,  
11 among them a letter from Stephen F. Austin and an 1835 grant of land  
12 to Sam Houston, as well as a rifle and leather pouch owned by David  
13 Crockett and a knife carried in battle by Jim Bowie; and

14         WHEREAS, The donation of this phenomenal collection will  
15 greatly enhance the experience of visitors to the Alamo, providing  
16 them with a greater understanding and appreciation of the famous  
17 battle and its place in the arc of history; Phil Collins has long  
18 been admired by innumerable fans across Texas for his musical  
19 accomplishments, and by sharing his love of our frontier heritage  
20 through this superlative gift, he has earned the lasting respect  
21 and gratitude of all residents of the Lone Star State; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23         RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
24 hereby recognize Phil Collins as an honorary Texan and commend him  
25 for the generous donation of his remarkable collection of  
26 historical artifacts; and, be it further

27         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Collins as an expression of high regard by the  
2 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.