

By: Price

H.R. No. 42

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On December 25, 2016, 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 observance 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 84th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby commemorate Christmas Day 2016.