

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 567

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Accomplished Texans who serve as positive role
2 models for young people deserve special recognition, and John O.
3 Meusebach, the founder of Fredericksburg, is one such figure; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Dillenburg, Germany, on May 26, 1812, Baron
5 Otfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach began studying law at the
6 University of Bonn in 1832 and later transferred to the University
7 of Halle, and he completed his bar examinations at Naumberg in 1836;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The baron was appointed as commissioner general of
10 the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, known
11 as the Adelsverein, in early 1845 and subsequently moved to New
12 Braunfels; there, he put aside his German title of nobility,
13 adopting the name John O. Meusebach, and dedicated his efforts to
14 serving the needs of immigrants, often enduring such hardships as
15 financial shortfalls, lack of transportation, disease, and war; and

16 WHEREAS, While working in New Braunfels, Mr. Meusebach
17 founded the settlements of Fredericksburg, Castell, and Leiningen;
18 he also acquired the headrights to property in the Fisher-Miller
19 land grant, but before that site could be surveyed and settled, he
20 needed to reach an accord with the Comanches; in March 1847, he and
21 a delegation of German settlers met with the Comanche head chiefs
22 Buffalo Hump, Santa Anna, and Mopechucoppe and their tribe, and two
23 months later, the parties signed the Meusebach-Comanche Treaty,
24 which established peace between both sides and opened more than

1 three million acres of land for settlement; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1851, Mr. Meusebach was elected to the Texas
3 Senate to represent Bexar, Comal, and Medina Counties; over the
4 course of his tenure in that office, he served on committees for
5 state affairs and education, and he further distinguished himself
6 as a staunch advocate of universal and compulsory education and
7 helped pass a bill to provide for a public school system; he was
8 later appointed by Governor Elisha M. Pease to issue land
9 certificates promised to immigrants by the Adelsverein in 1845 and
10 1846; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Meusebach married Countess Agnes of Coreth on
12 September 28, 1852, and they became the parents of 11 children;
13 following his retirement in 1869, he spent his remaining years at
14 his 200-acre farm in Loyal Valley, tending his orchard, vineyards,
15 and rose garden; he died on May 27, 1897; and

16 WHEREAS, John O. Meusebach was a crucial figure in the early
17 history of Texas, and his memory carries a particular resonance for
18 all who care about the heritage of the Lone Star State; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize May 9, 2015, as John O. Meusebach Day
22 at the State Capitol and pay tribute to his legacy as founder of
23 Fredericksburg and as peacemaker with the Comanches.