

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1685

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Masons from across Texas are assembling at the State
2 Capitol to celebrate Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas Day on April 8,
3 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Following the Texas Revolution, a group of
5 Freemasons gathered in Houston in December 1837 to found the Grand
6 Lodge of the Republic of Texas; since then, the Texas Grand Lodge
7 has remained a constant and enduring presence in the Lone Star
8 State, with a tradition of leadership and service that has been
9 continued by each new generation of members; and

10 WHEREAS, The organization benefits from the able guidance of
11 the 2015 grand master, Dr. Michael L. Wiggins, who earned his
12 bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and is
13 president of an international oil and gas consulting firm; since
14 becoming a Mason in 1978, he has served the Grand Lodge in many key
15 roles, and he received the honorary 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite
16 in 2005; and

17 WHEREAS, The other officers of the Texas lodge are Thomas W.
18 Ellison, Tommy D. Guest, James L. Kessler, Pierre G. Normand Jr.,
19 Scott L. Mills, Lawrence E. Tucker, Don Paul Payton, Donald R.
20 Sudduth, Bradley S. Billings, Ronald E. Lawrence, Barry D. Brunk
21 Sr., Jeffrey K. Haven, and Kenneth C. Curry; notable Masons can also
22 be found in the Texas Legislature, including Representatives Drew
23 Darby, DeWayne Burns, John Raney, and Doug Miller and Senators Troy
24 Fraser and John Whitmire; and

1 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas encompasses a number of
2 long-standing local lodges; among these, seven are celebrating
3 their centennial in 2015, namely the Army No. 1105, New Braunfels
4 1109, McAllen 1110, Fraternity 1111, Broaddus 1112, Southside 1114,
5 and Richards 1116; additionally, the Washington 1117, Texas City
6 1118, and Zanderson 1120 lodges are marking their 100th anniversary
7 in 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout the organization's long and
9 distinguished history, the members of the Grand Lodge of Texas have
10 sought to banish ignorance, promote peace, and relieve distress,
11 and in so doing, they have made innumerable contributions to the
12 Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize April 8, 2015, as Masonic Grand Lodge
15 of Texas Day at the State Capitol and commend all those involved for
16 their civic engagement; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas as an expression of
19 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.