

By: Schubert

H.R. No. 1699

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud area residents are joining together to
2 celebrate Austin County Day at the State Capitol on March 31, 2015,
3 and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the
4 county's unique contribution to the story of the Lone Star State;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, American settlement in the county dates to the early
7 1820s, when the area became part of Stephen F. Austin's first
8 colony; the first town to be established was San Felipe de Austin,
9 which served as the administrative seat of the colony and as a
10 social, cultural, and commercial center; and

11 WHEREAS, Austin County was created by the Constitution of
12 1836 and was formally organized by 1837; San Felipe was the county
13 seat until 1848, when the county government was moved to Bellville;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Blessed with an abundance of water, grassland, and
16 forests, the county drew a steady stream of settlers, most of whom
17 were engaged in agriculture; a number of towns grew substantially
18 during the 19th century, including Bellville and Wallis and the
19 railroad towns of Sealy and Kenney; and

20 WHEREAS, During the 1800s, German and Czech immigrants began
21 arriving in Austin County in appreciable numbers, and their
22 influence is felt throughout the region in the societies that they
23 established and the many communities that they founded; the
24 cultural mosaic of the county has been further enriched by

1 immigrants from Mexico, the largest foreign-born group to settle
2 there in the 20th century, and by African Americans, who played a
3 fundamental role in the county's development and in the creation of
4 numerous social and religious institutions; and

5 WHEREAS, Among the prominent Texans who have resided in
6 Austin County was Gail Borden Jr., a surveyor and newspaper
7 publisher who later invented a successful process for condensing
8 milk; another early citizen, Robert Justus Kleberg, fought in the
9 Battle of San Jacinto and held several prestigious public offices;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Today, visitors and residents alike can explore the
12 county's rich heritage, preserved at the San Felipe de Austin State
13 Historic Site and in rural communities throughout the area, and
14 they enjoy hunting and fishing opportunities as well as a wealth of
15 special recreational events; and

16 WHEREAS, The citizens of Austin County have together built a
17 vibrant and distinctive corner of Texas, and they may indeed take
18 pride in their notable history as they look forward to a future
19 filled with promise; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize March 31, 2015, as Austin County Day
22 and extend to the visiting delegation a warm welcome to the State
23 Capitol.