

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 2420

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Gonzales County Historical Commission is  
2 celebrating the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker  
3 honoring notable 19th-century quarter horse breeder William  
4 B. Fleming on May 9, 2015; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Lumpkin County, Georgia, in 1830, Billy  
6 Fleming arrived in Texas before he turned 20; he enlisted in the  
7 Texas Ranger Mounted Volunteers and served on the frontier with  
8 Company C before joining the Confederate Army; during the Civil  
9 War, he was wounded a number of times and lost the full use of his  
10 right arm and hand; and

11           WHEREAS, After the war ended, Mr. Fleming settled in Gonzales  
12 County, and in 1871 he purchased land on the south bank of the  
13 Guadalupe River in partnership with Charles Erasmus Littlefield; a  
14 fine judge of horses, he bought a stallion that was in terrible  
15 condition, having long been kept chained to a tree, and restored it  
16 to health; he called him Old Billy, and the steed established a line  
17 of quarter horses known as Billys, which were particularly popular  
18 with cowboys, rodeo performers, and racing enthusiasts; and

19           WHEREAS, For decades, Mr. Fleming lived on his small ranch  
20 between Seguin and Gonzales, where the vestiges of his log cabin can  
21 still be seen; his skill as a breeder led to South Texas becoming  
22 known as "land of the Billys"; when he finally grew too old to care  
23 for his beloved horses, he sold them to a friend who lived near  
24 Seguin and then moved to stay close to them until his passing on

1 April 30, 1911; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, Old Billy is regarded as a foundation sire of  
3 the quarter horse, and the placement of a historical marker in  
4 tribute to William Fleming will remind future generations of the  
5 important role that this Gonzales County pioneer played in the  
6 development of that legendary breed; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Official Texas  
9 Historical Marker honoring William B. Fleming and extend sincere  
10 appreciation to all those involved in the effort to secure this  
11 award; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for the Gonzales County Historical Commission as an  
14 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.