

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 3047

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The birth of twin giraffes at Natural Bridge
2 Wildlife Ranch in San Antonio on May 10, 2013, was a remarkable
3 occurrence, one that is truly deserving of special recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, The two reticulated giraffes were the ninth set of
5 living giraffe twins ever born in captivity and only the second set
6 of living twins born in the United States; Wasswa, the female calf,
7 weighed 95 pounds at birth and was 4.5 feet tall, while her twin
8 brother, Nakato, weighed 125 pounds and stood 5.5 feet tall; these
9 striking creatures have been featured in television and newspaper
10 stories across Texas and around the world, and they are also
11 included in *5 Giraffes*, the forthcoming book by famed giraffe
12 expert Anne Innis Dagg, who visited Wasswa and Nakato on the
13 inaugural World Giraffe Day in 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, Giraffes are an endangered species in the wild;
15 since 1999, the population of wild giraffes has declined by 50
16 percent, and in the past 10 years, 80 percent of reticulated
17 giraffes have disappeared; animal sanctuaries such as Natural
18 Bridge Wildlife Ranch play a vital role in preserving and raising
19 awareness about this unique species, and since the twins were born,
20 the ranch has seen the birth of two more giraffes; and

21 WHEREAS, Visitors from across the state and nation have
22 delighted in seeing and learning about giraffes at the Natural
23 Bridge Wildlife Ranch, and the third birthday of Wasswa and Nakato
24 represents a fitting opportunity to celebrate the beauty and grace

1 of the world's tallest mammal; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the birth of Wasswa and Nakato in
4 2013 and recognize May 10, 2016, as Texas Giraffe Day; and, be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch as an expression of
8 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.