

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 339

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, During the 1800s, German and Czech immigrants began arriving in Austin County in appreciable numbers, and their influence is felt throughout the region in the societies that they established and the many communities that they founded; the cultural mosaic of the county has been further enriched by immigrants from Mexico, the largest foreign-born group to settle there in the 20th century, and by African Americans, who played a fundamental role in the county's development and in the creation of numerous social and religious institutions; and

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

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

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

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

Kolkhorst

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate