

By: Dale

H.R. No. 96

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Republican Party of Texas are  
2 celebrating the organization's 150th anniversary in 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, The Republican Party of Texas was founded at the  
4 Harris County Courthouse on the Fourth of July, 1867, 13 years after  
5 the national party was established and 7 years after the election of  
6 the first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln; former governor  
7 Elisha M. Pease served as chair of that initial state convention,  
8 and Colonel John L. Haynes, commander of the U.S. Army's First  
9 Texas Cavalry, became the executive committee chair; the party's  
10 membership in its early years was largely made up of former slaves,  
11 German American immigrants, and Texans who had opposed secession  
12 during the Civil War; and

13 WHEREAS, Notable early Texas Republicans included Edmund  
14 J. Davis, the state's first Republican governor, Morgan  
15 C. Hamilton, a Republican senator, George T. Ruby, an African  
16 American state senator from Galveston, and Norris Wright Cuney, a  
17 prominent African American leader and a member of the Republican  
18 National Committee from 1886 to 1896; and

19 WHEREAS, The party gained strength in the Lone Star State in  
20 the 20th century when Dwight Eisenhower carried Texas in the 1952  
21 presidential election, and its fortunes were boosted again in 1961  
22 when John Tower was elected to replace Lyndon Johnson in the  
23 U.S. Senate; a new era began in 1978, when William P. Clements took  
24 office as the first Republican governor since Reconstruction, and

1 from the 1980s to the present, Texas has been represented in the  
2 U.S. Congress by a series of accomplished Republican leaders,  
3 including Senators Phil Gramm, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Cornyn,  
4 and Ted Cruz, as well as numerous members of the U.S. House of  
5 Representatives; Republicans have taken on an increasingly  
6 prominent role in state and local government as well; the party has  
7 held the governor's office since 1994, with George W. Bush, Rick  
8 Perry, and Greg Abbott serving as chief executive, and Republicans  
9 have swept the other statewide offices in five consecutive  
10 elections and have held a majority in the Texas Senate since 1997  
11 and in the Texas House of Representatives since 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Thanks to the tireless service and exemplary  
13 leadership of countless men and women, the Republican Party  
14 continues to carry forth its core goals, including limited  
15 government, political and economic freedom, and strong national  
16 security, and its members may indeed take great pride in their  
17 invaluable contributions to our state and nation; now, therefore,  
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
20 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the  
21 sesquicentennial of the Republican Party of Texas; and, be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for the Republican Party of Texas as an expression of high  
25 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.