

By: Schubert

H.R. No. 358

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Washington County are visiting the
2 State Capitol on February 21, 2017, to celebrate their rich
3 heritage and the contributions their county has made to the story of
4 Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, In the early 1820s, members of Stephen F. Austin's
6 Old Three Hundred began settling in the area of Washington County,
7 and they soon formed a community known as Washington-on-the-Brazos;
8 the town became a major center of activity during the Texas
9 Revolution, and it was the site of the Convention of 1836, where
10 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and drafted
11 a constitution for the new republic; that same year, Washington
12 County was formally created, and later, from 1842 to 1845,
13 Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital of the republic; and

14 WHEREAS, The population of the area grew quickly with the
15 arrival of newcomers from Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland;
16 residents had several colleges to choose from, including Baylor
17 University, which was established in Independence in 1846, and
18 Soule University, which eventually merged with other schools to
19 become Southwestern University; today, that early tradition of
20 higher education is carried on at Blinn College, founded in 1883, in
21 Brenham, the county seat; and

22 WHEREAS, The late 1800s were a time of rapid development, and
23 as more homes and businesses were built, the need for services to
24 protect the community became critical; the Brenham Fire Department

1 was established to help meet those needs, and in 2017, it is marking
2 its 150th anniversary; and

3 WHEREAS, Another venerable organization that was formed to
4 serve the citizens of the area is the Washington County Chamber of
5 Commerce, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on
6 January 31, 2017; among its many accomplishments, the chamber has
7 created numerous opportunities for education and networking,
8 including an annual 10-month training program, Leadership
9 Washington County; and

10 WHEREAS, Thanks to its natural beauty and prominent role in
11 early Texas history, Washington County is a popular tourist
12 destination; visitors can drive scenic country roads, enjoy the
13 recreation afforded by Lake Somerville, and step into the past at
14 museums in Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence;
15 moreover, the Star of the Republic Museum in
16 Washington-on-the-Brazos tells the story of the Texas Republic; and

17 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include Blue Bell
18 Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, the Downtown Brenham
19 historic district, four wineries, a microbrewery, and more than 40
20 bed-and-breakfasts; in addition, the area can boast of such
21 well-known events as the Washington County Fair, which is the
22 oldest county fair in Texas, along with the Burton Cotton Gin
23 Festival, the Bluebonnet and Scarecrow Festivals in Chappell Hill,
24 and the Brenham Maifest; and

25 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work to build
26 an even brighter future, the residents of Washington County are
27 justifiably proud of their community, and it is indeed a pleasure to

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1 honor their contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2017, as Washington
5 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
6 delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay
7 in Austin.