

By: Arévalo

H.R. No. 433

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Grande Voiture du Texas are
2 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the entry of the United
3 States into World War I by bringing the famous "40 & 8" boxcar to the
4 State Capitol on February 18, 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, In April 1917, the United States Congress formally
6 declared war on Germany, bringing our nation into the global
7 conflict that had been raging since 1914; by the time the guns went
8 silent in November 1918, 4 million Americans had served in the
9 victorious Allied war effort, with more than 116,700 making the
10 ultimate sacrifice; and

11 WHEREAS, During their service in France, American
12 "doughboys" were often transported in small railcars that came to
13 be known as "40 & 8" boxcars because they could hold either 40
14 soldiers or 8 horses; in 1920, veterans of the war formed La Societe
15 des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (the Society of Forty Men and
16 Eight Horses); today, this invitation-only veterans organization
17 is commonly known as "the Forty and Eight," and it is represented in
18 the Lone Star State by the Grande Voiture du Texas (the Great Car of
19 Texas), which was chartered in 1922; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1947, when Europe lay in ruins after World War II,
21 a "Friendship Train" traveled across the United States soliciting
22 donations for the people of France and Italy, eventually delivering
23 more than \$40 million in food, clothing, and fuel; in gratitude, the
24 people of France sent to America an authentic "40 & 8" boxcar filled

1 with gifts, and in 1948, Texas governor Beauford Jester put this
2 boxcar in the care of the Grande Voiture, which displays it at the
3 Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin; and

4 WHEREAS, In this year of the World War I centennial, the
5 Grande Voiture du Texas has been designated as an official
6 commemorative partner by the Texas World War One Centennial
7 Commission, and on February 18, the chapter is presenting the "40 &
8 8" boxcar for public viewing at a ceremony on the grounds of the
9 State Capitol; and

10 WHEREAS, The fabled "40 & 8" boxcar is a remarkable
11 historical artifact of World War I, a powerful reminder of the
12 sacrifice made by American soldiers, and a potent symbol of the
13 bonds of friendship between two great nations; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby welcome the "40 & 8" boxcar and the Grand Voiture
17 du Texas to the State Capitol and commemorate the 100th anniversary
18 of our nation's entry into World War I; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the Grand Voiture du Texas as an expression of high
21 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.