

By: Stephenson

H.R. No. 709

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Wharton County are gathering in Austin  
2 on February 28, 2017, to celebrate Wharton County Day at the State  
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Wharton County was founded in April of 1846, and its  
5 name commemorates two heroes of the Texas Revolution, brothers  
6 William Harris Wharton and John Austin Wharton; and

7 WHEREAS, Wharton County is located on the Coastal Plain  
8 southwest of Houston; the county is bounded by Matagorda, Colorado,  
9 and Jackson Counties and by the San Bernard River, which forms its  
10 northeastern border and marks the county line with Fort Bend  
11 County; and

12 WHEREAS, Wharton County has more than 41,000 residents and  
13 encompasses 1,086 square miles of land, which is divided primarily  
14 between prairie and timberland; the Colorado River traverses the  
15 county from northwest to southeast, dividing it roughly in half and  
16 flowing through Wharton and Glen Flora; and

17 WHEREAS, Prospective landowners first came to the plains of  
18 the Colorado River in 1822, led by Stephen F. Austin under contract  
19 with the Mexican government; the Mexican Imperial Colonization Law  
20 of 1823 granted 177 acres to the heads of families for farming and  
21 4,428 acres for raising cattle; and

22 WHEREAS, During the time of the Republic of Texas, the area  
23 was divided into three counties, Matagorda, Jackson, and Colorado,  
24 and the area consisted of isolated plantation homes and two growing

1 towns, Preston and Egypt; and

2 WHEREAS, After Texas entered the United States in 1845,  
3 Wharton County was formed of parts of the three existing counties  
4 near the intersection of the mail routes from Matagorda to Columbus  
5 and from Houston to Victoria; and

6 WHEREAS, The advent of railroads and irrigation brought  
7 increased settlement to the area, which remains a center of  
8 agricultural, educational, industrial, and medical services for a  
9 large region; and

10 WHEREAS, Wharton County's largest cities and townships are El  
11 Campo, Wharton, East Bernard, Boling, and Louise; and

12 WHEREAS, Wharton, the county seat, is known for its  
13 small-town way of life and its Czech, Danish, and Mexican heritage;  
14 it offers proximity to both Houston and the Gulf Coast, and  
15 outstanding festivals; it is also noted for its excellent schools  
16 and championship football teams; and

17 WHEREAS, Residents of Wharton County can take pride in their  
18 rich history and heritage as they look forward to a promising  
19 future; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2017, as Wharton County  
22 Day at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to all  
23 participants for an informative and enjoyable day in Austin.