

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Cape's Dam and Mill Race on the San Marcos River is
2 150 years old in 2017, and this is a fitting opportunity to
3 celebrate this unique structure's importance to the history and
4 recreational culture of the region; and

5 WHEREAS, The dam and the mill race were constructed on the
6 river in 1867 by William Alexander Thompson, an early pioneer in
7 Hays County; the dam earned its name from a subsequent owner, John
8 Matthew Cape, and it represents one of the earliest industrial
9 enterprises in the county; it remains historically significant as
10 one of the few 19th-century mill sites still extant in Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, The dam was built using an existing slough, creating
12 three islands known as Thompson's Islands between the San Marcos
13 River and the mill race; in the years since, these islands have
14 become a sanctuary for a variety of wildlife and flora, and the
15 river and the mill race are part of a federally designated habitat
16 for three of the five endangered species in the San Marcos and Comal
17 river basin; and

18 WHEREAS, The mill race and the 14-foot waterfall where it
19 reconnects with the river's main channel create a popular swimming
20 hole at Stokes Park, and each year, thousands of Texans enjoy the
21 recreational opportunities afforded by the site; the mill race has
22 also become a place of healing for wounded veterans who visit each
23 week from VA medical centers, as well as for veterans from Brooke
24 Army Medical Center in San Antonio, who kayak there for

1 rehabilitation; and

2 WHEREAS, The site has likewise become a mecca for competitive
3 kayakers and has been used for training by 10 international teams,
4 17 Olympians, 8 Olympic coaches, and 2 Paralympians; these include
5 10 world champions, 2 Olympic medalists, and 64 national team
6 members; in addition, the slow portions of the race provide a safe
7 place for less experienced paddlers, such as Boy Scout troops and
8 other youth groups, to hone their skills; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1985, the National Park Service determined that
10 Cape's Dam and Mill Race were eligible for the National Register of
11 Historic Places, and the site is home to three Official Texas State
12 Historical Markers; and

13 WHEREAS, A century and a half ago, early settlers in Hays
14 County created Cape's Dam and Mill Race to help establish commerce
15 in the region, and in the years since, it has become an important
16 monument to the area's heritage as well as a vital recreational
17 resource; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
19 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Cape's Dam
20 and Mill Race and celebrate the historical significance of this
21 landmark site.

Isaac

H.R. No. 792

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 792 was adopted by the House on March 16, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House