

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Austin are celebrating one of the
2 city's distinctive features on May 3, 2017, with the observance of
3 Moonlight Tower Day; and

4 WHEREAS, In the late 19th century, various designs of
5 electrical moonlight towers were erected in cities across the
6 globe, including Detroit, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Francisco,
7 and London; Austin civic leaders, looking to light the city's
8 streets with power from the newly completed Great Granite Dam,
9 contracted with the Fort Wayne Electric Company to construct
10 moonlight towers around the city; and

11 WHEREAS, The company built 31 towers in 1894 and 1895, all 165
12 feet tall with six carbon arc lamps mounted at the top; each tower
13 was guaranteed to provide enough light to read a watch within a
14 1,500-foot radius of the structure; the first tower was assembled
15 in the newly established Hyde Park subdivision, and the others were
16 strategically placed to illuminate as much of the city as possible;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Through the years, nearly half of the towers have
19 been lost to storms, accidents, and development, but 17 of them
20 continue to stand and to provide the city with light; officially
21 designated as state archaeological landmarks in 1970 and added to
22 the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, they were
23 prominently featured in the popular film *Dazed and Confused*, and
24 one of the structures serves as the pivotal center of the annual

1 Zilker Holiday Tree; and

2 WHEREAS, In commemoration of the centennial of the
3 installation of the towers, Austin Energy, the municipal electric
4 utility company, thoroughly restored the remaining towers in 1993
5 at a cost of \$1.3 million; with extraordinary care and expertise,
6 the company continues to keep the structures fully operational,
7 adding to the unique spirit of the city; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, Austin is the only city in the world to
9 feature moonlight towers, which provide a vital link to the rich
10 history of the community, and it is truly fitting that a day be set
11 aside to pay tribute to these iconic local landmarks; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize May 3, 2017, as Moonlight Tower Day
15 and encourage residents in Austin and across the Lone Star State to
16 celebrate this unique element of the Capital City.

Howard

H.R. No. 1183

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1183 was adopted by the House on April 6, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House