

By: White

H.R. No. 1229

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Americans of Czech ancestry celebrate their
2 cultural heritage with events throughout the year, and many Texans
3 are observing Czech Heritage Day in Texas on September 30, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Texas has greatly benefited
5 from the many significant contributions of individuals of Czech
6 descent; immigrants from what is today known as the Czech Republic
7 began arriving in Texas in the early 1800s, seeking economic
8 prosperity and fleeing from political and religious persecution
9 within the Austrian Empire; in 1850, Josef Arnost Bergmann, a Czech
10 Protestant minister, traveled to Texas with his family and settled
11 in Cat Spring; he sent word back to his homeland of the freedom and
12 opportunity he'd found, and soon many more Czechs began making the
13 Atlantic voyage toward the Port of Galveston; and

14 WHEREAS, In the decades that followed, Czech communities were
15 established across Central Texas, especially in Austin, Fayette,
16 Lavaca, and Washington Counties and throughout the Blackland
17 Prairie region, where productive farmland was plentiful; Czech
18 immigration to Texas continued to grow through the turn of the
19 century, with the number of foreign-born Czechs in Texas reaching a
20 peak of just over 15,000 in 1910; and

21 WHEREAS, The Czech people carried with them a rich culture
22 and deeply held traditions, including a strong Catholic faith,
23 close-knit family units, and distinctive cuisine, folk art, and
24 music; proud of their native language, they promoted the study of

1 Czech among their children and supported a thriving journalism
2 industry that saw the publication of more than 30 Czech-language
3 newspapers and periodicals in Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Thousands of men and women of Czech origin or
5 ancestry have made their home in Texas, playing a vital role in the
6 social, economic, and civic development of the Lone Star State;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize September 30, 2017, as Czech Heritage
10 Day in Texas and honor the contributions of Czechs and people of
11 Czech descent to this state.