

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 2088

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Messina Hof Winery is celebrating its 40th  
2 anniversary in 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1977, the winery was established by Paul Vincent  
4 Bonarrigo, a sixth-generation winemaker from New York, and his  
5 wife, Bryan native Merrill Bonarrigo; these pioneers in the Texas  
6 wine industry planted a one-acre experimental vineyard in Bryan  
7 with 50 varietals, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc, and  
8 Lenoir, and four years later, Messina Hof Winery won a medal at the  
9 Texas State Fair with a black Spanish-Cabernet blend; and

10 WHEREAS, The business grew rapidly during the 1980s;  
11 following the addition of two vineyards, Messina Hof produced 1,300  
12 gallons of wine in 1983 and released its first commercial vintage,  
13 which included Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Papa Paulo  
14 Port offerings; it began Texas distribution in 1987 and soon  
15 expanded into Japan; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the years, Messina Hof has received myriad  
17 accolades; its Angel Late Harvest Riesling was the first Texas wine  
18 to score a 90 in *Wine Spectator*, and in 2013, the winery was the  
19 first in the Lone Star State to win the Top All-Around Winery award  
20 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; and

21 WHEREAS, The Bonarrigos brought their son, Paul Mitchell,  
22 into the business, and in 2011, the family opened Messina Hof Hill  
23 Country Winery; Paul Mitchell Bonarrigo became chief executive  
24 officer in 2012 and his wife, Karen, was named director of

1 administration; they opened Messina Hof Grapevine Winery at the end  
2 of 2014, and the company has continued to flourish; it now produces  
3 130,000 gallons annually; and

4 WHEREAS, For four decades, Messina Hof Winery has contributed  
5 to the growth, vitality, and prosperity of the Texas wine industry,  
6 and its management and staff may take pride in the company's  
7 achievements as they mark this significant milestone in its  
8 history; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Messina Hof Winery on its 40th  
11 anniversary and extend to all those associated with the enterprise  
12 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for the winery as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
15 House of Representatives.