

By: Phelan

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R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Italians and Americans of Italian descent have  
2 played a central role in the history and culture of our nation; and

3           WHEREAS, This heritage runs deep in Texas, from the earliest  
4 days of our state; an Italian named Prospero Bernardi was among the  
5 men who fought at Goliad and the Battle of San Jacinto, and Giuseppe  
6 Cassini helped to finance the Texas War for Independence; a century  
7 later, the sculptor Pompeo Coppini designed Sam Houston's grave  
8 monument in Huntsville, the monument in Texas Heroes Square in  
9 Gonzales, and the Alamo Cenotaph in San Antonio; and

10          WHEREAS, Other notable Italians in Texas include Joe Grasso,  
11 a native of Sicily who pioneered the shrimp industry along the Gulf  
12 Coast, Frascio Fossati, who started the oldest delicatessen in  
13 Texas, Salvatore Lucchese, who established the Lucchese brand of  
14 boots in San Antonio, and Frederick Ruffini, an architect who  
15 designed opera houses, office buildings, and courthouses all across  
16 the state; and

17          WHEREAS, Houston native Jack Valenti was a decorated combat  
18 pilot during World War II, a special assistant to President Lyndon  
19 Johnson, and the head of the Motion Picture Association of America  
20 for nearly 40 years; Romano's Macaroni Grill, the popular  
21 nationwide chain of Italian restaurants, was founded by Texan  
22 Philip J. Romano and maintains its headquarters in Houston; and

23          WHEREAS, In 1890, the Christopher Columbus Italian Society in  
24 San Antonio established the first Italian hall in Texas, and the

1 Beaumont and San Antonio chapters of the Sons of Italy have donated  
2 considerable sums to be used for scholarships, medical research,  
3 disaster relief, and other causes over the years; and

4 WHEREAS, The celebration of Italian History Month provides a  
5 fitting occasion to celebrate the rich history of Italians and  
6 Italian Americans in Texas and the special contributions people of  
7 Italian descent have made to our state and nation; now, therefore,  
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize October 2017 as Italian History Month  
11 in the State of Texas.