

By: Price

H.R. No. 2296

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Americans across the land are gathering on
2 Thanksgiving, November 23, 2017, to reflect on the many blessings
3 the year has brought; and

4 WHEREAS, The history of this cherished celebration spans
5 nearly four centuries, tracing its roots back to 1620; met by a
6 harsh New England winter that year, the struggling European
7 settlers at Plymouth Rock received welcome assistance from the
8 indigenous people, who taught them vital farming and survival
9 techniques; in a display of gratitude toward God for answering
10 their prayers for help, the Pilgrims held a three-day feast, and
11 together with their Native American neighbors, they enjoyed the
12 fruits of a bountiful harvest; and

13 WHEREAS, The Thanksgiving holiday was first officially
14 observed more than 150 years later, soon after the founding fathers
15 established this great nation; in George Washington's first
16 presidential proclamation in 1789, he enacted a day of thanksgiving
17 and prayer to acknowledge the "many signal favors of Almighty God"
18 that had been bestowed on the American people; and

19 WHEREAS, Decades later, in the tumultuous days of the Civil
20 War, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Thanksgiving Day
21 proclamation that would set the standard for every president that
22 followed; in his now famous speech, he urged Americans to call on
23 "the Almighty hand" to heal the union and implored the people to
24 remember the source from which "the blessings of fruitful fields

1 and healthful skies" come; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the Thanksgiving holiday, observed each year
3 on the fourth Thursday in November, is one of our most dearly held
4 traditions, offering an opportunity to join with family and friends
5 in expressing appreciation for the many gifts of the past year; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate Thanksgiving 2017.