

By: Miles

S.C.R. No. 54

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Presidential libraries serve a vital purpose by
2 advancing knowledge of individuals who helped to shape this nation;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Combining the functions of archives, museums, and
5 academic institutions, presidential libraries house artifacts and
6 documents while offering a public place for the study and
7 discussion of a president's policies and place in history; Sam
8 Houston, the first and third president of the Republic of Texas, is
9 an especially apt subject for such a library; and

10 WHEREAS, A veteran of the War of 1812, Sam Houston served in
11 Tennessee as attorney general of the District of Nashville, as
12 major general of the state militia, as United States
13 representative, and ultimately, as governor; after settling in
14 Texas, he was a signatory to the Texas Declaration of Independence;
15 he led the army of Texas as major general and defeated the Mexican
16 army in the Battle of San Jacinto; this hero of independence was
17 elected as the first president of the Republic of Texas in 1836, and
18 he represented San Augustine in the Congress of the Republic of
19 Texas before serving a second term as president; from 1846 to 1859,
20 he was a United States senator, and he won election as governor of
21 Texas in 1859; and

22 WHEREAS, The campus of Sam Houston State University in
23 Huntsville is already home to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum,
24 which has many of the attributes of a successful presidential

1 library, including exhibition and conference space, a theater, and
2 a collection of some 12,000 Houston artifacts, such as manuscripts,
3 books, and furnishings related to his life and times, and two of
4 Houston's homes are located on the grounds; the development of a
5 presidential library with dedicated research space would attract
6 further donations of academic papers and other important materials
7 regarding Mr. Houston; and

8 WHEREAS, Establishing a presidential library for Sam Houston
9 at Sam Houston State University, whose motto is "The Measure of a
10 Life Is Its Service," would greatly enhance scholarly knowledge and
11 heighten public awareness of his enormous contributions to the
12 founding of the Republic of Texas and of the Lone Star State; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby express support for the creation of the Sam Houston Republic
16 of Texas Presidential Library at Sam Houston State University.