

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 208

WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Washington County are visiting the State Capitol on February 21, 2017, to celebrate their rich heritage and the contributions their county has made to the story of Texas; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1820s, members of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred began settling in the area of Washington County, and they soon formed a community known as Washington-on-the-Brazos; the town became a major center of activity during the Texas Revolution, and it was the site of the Convention of 1836, where delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and drafted a constitution for the new republic; that same year, Washington County was formally created, and later, from 1842 to 1845, Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital of the republic; and

WHEREAS, The region attracted substantial immigration and developed quickly; included among the newcomers were Germans, Czechs, and Poles, who began arriving in the mid-19th century; residents had several colleges to choose from, including Baylor University, which was established in Independence in 1846, and Soule University, which eventually merged with other schools to become Southwestern University; today, that early tradition of higher education is carried on at Blinn College, founded in 1883, in Brenham, the county seat; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to its natural beauty and prominent role in early Texas history, Washington County is a popular tourist destination; visitors can drive down scenic country roads, enjoy the recreation afforded by Lake Somerville, and step into the past at

museums in Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence; moreover, the Star of the Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos tells the story of the Texas Republic; and

WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include Blue Bell Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, the Downtown Brenham historic district, four wineries, a microbrewery, and more than 40 bed and breakfast inns; in addition, the area can boast of such well-known events as the Washington County Fair, which is the oldest county fair in Texas, along with the Burton Cotton Gin Festival, the Bluebonnet and Scarecrow Festivals in Chappell Hill, and the Brenham Maifest; and

WHEREAS, This dynamic county is one of the Lone Star State's great treasures, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor the residents of Washington County as they look forward to a bright and promising future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize February 21, 2017, as Washington County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay in Austin.

Kolkhorst

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 15, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate