

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 537

**WHEREAS**, Proud area residents are joining together to celebrate Austin County Day at the State Capitol on April 5, 2017, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the county's unique contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; and

**WHEREAS**, American settlement in the county dates to the early 1820s, when the area became part of Stephen F. Austin's first colony; the first town to be established was San Felipe de Austin, which served as the administrative seat of the colony and as a social, cultural, and commercial center; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin County was created by the Constitution of 1836 and was formally organized by 1837; San Felipe was the county seat until 1848, when the county government was moved to Bellville; and

**WHEREAS**, Blessed with an abundance of water, grassland, and forests, the county drew a steady stream of settlers, most of whom were engaged in agriculture; a number of towns grew substantially during the 19th century, including Bellville and Wallis and the railroad towns of Sealy and Kenney; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, visitors and residents alike can explore the county's rich heritage, which is preserved at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and in rural communities throughout the area, and they can enjoy hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as a wealth of special recreational events; and

**WHEREAS**, The citizens of Austin County have built a vibrant and distinctive corner of Texas, and they may indeed take pride in their notable history as they look forward to a future filled with promise; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize April 5, 2017, as Austin County Day and extend to the visiting delegation a warm welcome to the State Capitol.

Kolkhorst

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 29, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate