By:  Middleton H.R. No. 353

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Anahuac was the scene of a number of pivotal incidents that helped ignite the Texas Revolution in the 1830s, and the town is indeed deserving of recognition for its seminal role in the creation of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Those momentous events were set in motion by the passage of the Law of 1830, under which Mexico established a series of new outposts in Texas to enforce Mexican law, collect taxes, and stem the influx of U.S. citizens into the region; that year, Lieutenant Colonel Juan Davis Bradburn and a company of Mexican soldiers under his command arrived at Perry's Point, where the Trinity River enters Galveston Bay, and established a fort that they named Anahuac; Colonel Bradburn soon incited the discontent of local settlers with his heavy-handed style of governance, his refusal to issue land titles, his unfair taxing practices, and the alleged criminal activity of some of his soldiers; and

WHEREAS, In May and June of 1832, two law partners in Anahuac, Patrick Jack and William B. Travis, took a stand against Colonel Bradburn's policies, and after the two men were arrested and incarcerated at the fort, a force of outraged Texans advanced to nearby Turtle Bayou, intent on freeing the two men; several armed skirmishes between the Mexican troops and the Texans led to the Battle of Velasco, in which the Mexican force surrendered; meanwhile, the insurgents drafted the "Turtle Bayou Resolutions" to explain their opposition to the Mexican government; ultimately, the insurrection freed Jack and Travis and forced the Mexicans to abandon their outpost at Anahuac, and the incident helped set the stage for the Battle of Nacogdoches a short time later; and

WHEREAS, In 1835, Captain Antonio Tenorio of the Mexican army attempted to reestablish the fort and customhouse at Anahuac but was driven off by a force of 25 Texans led by William Travis; as a result of the Texan victories at Anahuac, Velsaco, and Nacogdoches, the eastern half of Texas was free of Mexican control on the eve of the Texas Revolution, which was an important factor in the decisive defeat of the Mexican army under General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836; and

WHEREAS, In the opinion of many historians, including Carroll A. Lewis, Anahuac was the site of a number of important firsts as Texas sought its independence; these included the first opposition to Mexican martial law, the first written declaration challenging the authority of the central Mexican government, the first armed rebellion against Mexican forces, and the first battle casualties on both sides of the conflict; as a result, Anahuac has earned the fitting nickname of "First Stand of the Texas Revolution"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Anahuac's crucial role in the struggle for Texas independence; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Chambers County and the City of Anahuac as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.