86R5637 BGU-D

By:  Price H.R. No. 2126

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, On December 25, 2019, many Texans will join in worship and in fellowship as they celebrate the joyous occasion known as Christmas; and

WHEREAS, Observed by Christians all across the world, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whose arrival on earth is heralded as a promise of salvation for humankind; after more than two millennia, Christ's example continues to serve as a model of generosity and compassion and as a guiding presence in the lives of countless people; and

WHEREAS, Although Christmas has a longstanding history in the United States, the breadth of its observance has grown considerably since the earliest days of our nation's founding; the Christmas tradition familiar to us today arose during the 19th century, and most markedly in the years of rapid industrialization following the Civil War; at a time of national unrest and uncertainty, a holiday reminiscent of a simpler life, suffused by the fundamental spirit of peace and goodwill, offered comfort and spoke to the most fervent prayers of all Americans; by 1870, the observance of Christmas had become so widespread that the day was declared a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, Modern-day Christmas evokes images of families gathering by the warmth of the hearth, of city streets adorned with lights, of tinsel-strewn trees, and of such confections as gingerbread and eggnog; many present-day customs are derived from Old World forms of celebration that have been shaped, refined, and interwoven with more recent practices, like the exchange of presents, to yield a wealth of festivities that are definitively American; and

WHEREAS, Amid the bustle that now attends the holidays, the original significance of Christmas nonetheless reveals itself; more than any other time of the year, the Christmas season calls forth a heightened sense of charity, as individuals share what they have to help alleviate the needs of others; the holiday also invites celebrants to set aside worldly cares, enjoy the company of loved ones, and rejoice in the heartening gift that is faith; and

WHEREAS, The simple story of a child born in a humble manger has endured and inspired generations, and the scriptural lessons of redemption, mercy, tolerance, and most of all, love, remain as profound and transformative as ever before; as Texans share their delight in this most cherished holiday and its many treasured traditions, they may take to heart the virtues that define the true spirit of Christmas and endeavor to carry them forward in the year ahead; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate Christmas Day 2019.