H.R. No. 2137

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, November 26, 2020, marks the annual celebration of Thanksgiving, an occasion when Americans gather among loved ones and recount the year's bounties and blessings; and

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving is among our oldest and most cherished traditions, a holiday whose history intertwines closely with the narrative of our nation and whose spirit of fellowship and goodwill has endured through all times of triumph and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, Its origins can be traced nearly four centuries ago to the year 1620, when the Pilgrims made landfall on Plymouth Rock; finding themselves inadequately prepared for the harsh New England winter, they took refuge in prayer and were at last assisted by a tribe of Native Americans, whose knowledge of the land helped them to reap a plentiful harvest; the grateful settlers declared a three-day feast to honor the kindness of their newfound friends and to acknowledge the grace of God in seeing them through their time of hardship; and

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving was first observed in the fledgling United States in 1789, one year after the adoption of the Constitution; during the inaugural session of Congress, a resolution was put forth calling on President George Washington to enact "a day of public thanksgiving" to God for allowing the American people to establish a peaceful rule of government; President Washington agreed and, in his first proclamation to the nation, invited Americans to reflect on the gifts of tranquility, unity, and prosperity bestowed on them; and

WHEREAS, It was decades later, when the fate of the union was imperiled during the dark days of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Thanksgiving Day proclamation calling for "the Almighty hand" to heal and restore the nation; since that time, a presidential Thanksgiving proclamation has been issued by each of his successors; and

WHEREAS, On this most American of holidays, individuals from all walks of life cast aside troubles and disagreements to treasure the comforts of hearth and kin; mindful of the freedom and security that we continue to enjoy, Americans honor the service and sacrifice of members of our armed forces and all those at home who confront danger to ensure the safety of their communities; we extend thanks to the many people who enrich our lives in ways great and small, and we strive to share our abundance with fellow citizens in need; and

WHEREAS, Signifying the bonds of faith, friendship, and family from which we have always drawn our deepest strength, Thanksgiving is redolent of the brighter dawn that has always awaited us, and it is a great pleasure to join with our countrymen and countrywomen to reflect on this historic and joyous occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate Thanksgiving 2020.

Price

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2137 was adopted by the House on May 27, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House