

By: Middleton

H.R. No. 353

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

16 WHEREAS, In May and June of 1832, two law partners in Anahuac,
17 Patrick Jack and William B. Travis, took a stand against Colonel
18 Bradburn's policies, and after the two men were arrested and
19 incarcerated at the fort, a force of outraged Texans advanced to
20 nearby Turtle Bayou, intent on freeing the two men; several armed
21 skirmishes between the Mexican troops and the Texans led to the
22 Battle of Velasco, in which the Mexican force surrendered;
23 meanwhile, the insurgents drafted the "Turtle Bayou Resolutions" to
24 explain their opposition to the Mexican government; ultimately, the

1 insurrection freed Jack and Travis and forced the Mexicans to
2 abandon their outpost at Anahuac, and the incident helped set the
3 stage for the Battle of Nacogdoches a short time later; and

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

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

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

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