

By: Murr

H.R. No. 409

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Camp La Junta in Hunt celebrated its 90th
2 anniversary in 2018, and the occasion provides a fitting
3 opportunity to reflect on the camp's rich history; and

4 WHEREAS, Named for an Indian word that means "the gathering
5 place," Camp La Junta traces its roots to 1928, when Dr. Ferdinand
6 Walsh invited four children to spend the summer at his Hill Country
7 home, located at the convergence of the north and south forks of the
8 Guadalupe River; by the following year, he had built three small
9 cabins near his house to accommodate 30 boys who spent eight weeks
10 at the camp; in 1931, Dr. Walsh and his son, Ralph, purchased an
11 adjacent piece of property, which remains the main grounds of Camp
12 La Junta; and

13 WHEREAS, During the 1940s, the camp was sold to E. C. Gandy
14 of Corpus Christi; Luther and Tal Graham joined the staff to run the
15 horseback riding program in 1948, and the couple purchased the camp
16 in 1956; after their son, Larry, came home from his service in the
17 U.S. Navy in 1969, he introduced a waterfront program and the
18 Advanced Camper Program, and he continues to serve as director
19 emeritus; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, Camp La Junta benefits from the leadership of
21 its owners, David Domingue and Blake and Cheryl Smith, and its camp
22 directors, Scott and Katie Fineske, who oversee a wide variety of
23 exciting activities, including horseback riding, mountain biking,
24 shooting sports, tennis, archery, and waterborne activities such as

1 kayaking, sailing, scuba diving, and swimming; and

2 WHEREAS, For nine decades, Camp La Junta has provided a
3 nurturing, challenging, and safe environment for young men to
4 experience the outdoors, gain new skills, build character, and
5 learn self-confidence, and it is truly deserving of special
6 recognition; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 90th anniversary of Camp La
9 Junta and extend to the camp's management and staff sincere best
10 wishes for the future; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the facility as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.