

By: Price

H.R. No. 966

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas American Legion Boys State is celebrating the
2 80th anniversary of its founding in 2019, providing a fitting
3 opportunity to pay tribute to this outstanding educational program;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, One of the most respected civics education programs
6 for high school students in the nation, American Legion Boys State
7 brings together participants to learn about government through
8 role-playing exercises, including running for office, organizing a
9 government, and introducing and debating bills in a legislature;
10 the program was created in Illinois in 1934, and the national
11 organization adopted the plan in 1935; today, 48 states conduct a
12 Boys State each year, and the American Legion Auxiliary also
13 sponsors a program for young women called Girls State; and

14 WHEREAS, At its annual convention in Waco in 1939, the Texas
15 Department of the American Legion mandated the establishment of a
16 Boys State program in the Lone Star State, and the first group of
17 participants met on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin
18 in June 1940; in addition to developing a government complete with
19 elected city, county, and state officials, a legislature, and
20 courts, the youths published a daily newspaper and attended
21 lectures by counselors on such subjects as the U.S. Constitution
22 and the branches of government; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, several hundred student leaders take part in
24 Boys State each summer at The University of Texas; selected on a

1 competitive basis by local high schools and American Legion posts
2 from across the state, these notable young Texans are mentored by
3 dedicated volunteers who include members of the American Legion,
4 legislators, and former Boys Staters, many of whom have gone on to
5 excel in such fields as education, law, and government; and

6 WHEREAS, By nurturing the techniques and ideals of our
7 representative republic, Texas American Legion Boys State is
8 helping young people develop the understanding, insight, and skills
9 necessary to become the leaders of tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary of American
12 Legion Boys State in Texas and extend to all those associated with
13 the program sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Texas American Legion Boys State as an expression of
17 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.