

By: Seliger

S.C.R. No. 7

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The life of the iconic Comanche leader Quanah Parker  
2 spanned the transition of his people from a traditional, nomadic,  
3 way of life to their acceptance of a settled existence in the late  
4 19th century, and his leading role in this epic story is truly  
5 deserving of special recognition; and

6           WHEREAS, Known as the "Lords of the Plains" for their  
7 outstanding horsemanship, the Comanche were roving hunters and  
8 gatherers who dominated the Southern Plains of North America,  
9 including large portions of Texas; individuals lived together in  
10 small bands and were free to join another group if they so desired;  
11 although they once roamed the plains in numbers "like the stars," by  
12 the mid-19th century the Comanche were threatened by the U.S.  
13 policy of Manifest Destiny and the eradication by Anglo American  
14 hunters of the bison, which were both the Comanche's main food  
15 source and the center of their spiritual life; and

16           WHEREAS, Born either in Texas or Oklahoma sometime between  
17 1845 and 1852, Quanah Parker was the son of Peta Nocona, a war chief  
18 of the Noconi band of the Comanche, and Cynthia Ann Parker, who had  
19 been captured by the Comanche while still a child and who adopted  
20 their way of life, spending 25 years with the tribe; after his  
21 father was killed and his mother captured in a fight with the Texas  
22 Rangers in 1860, Quanah took refuge with the Quahada Comanche of the  
23 Llano Estacado region; and

24           WHEREAS, Quanah Parker rose to become a powerful and

1 influential chief among the Quahada, and for years he led the  
2 resistance to increased Anglo expansion in the Southern Plains;  
3 under his direction, the Comanche eluded the Fourth U.S. Cavalry in  
4 1871 and 1872, but in 1874, an alliance of Comanche and several  
5 other tribes under his leadership was defeated during a raid at  
6 Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle; a year later, Quanah Parker and  
7 the Quahada surrendered and settled on the Kiowa-Comanche  
8 reservation in Oklahoma, where he was appointed as the new chief of  
9 the tribe; and

10         WHEREAS, Leading by persuasion and example, Quanah Parker  
11 helped his people come to terms with their new existence; he  
12 promoted the creation of a ranching industry by working closely  
13 with Anglo ranchers, and as part of that effort, he negotiated a  
14 famous deal with the legendary Texas cattleman Charles Goodnight in  
15 1878, permitting the JA Ranch to expand while providing beef for the  
16 Comanche; a herd of surviving bison was allowed to continue roaming  
17 the JA rangeland, and more than a century later, this arrangement  
18 helped lead to the creation of the official State Bison Herd of  
19 Texas, which now resides at Caprock Canyons State Park; and

20         WHEREAS, Quanah Parker's influence was also felt in other  
21 areas; he was a strong proponent of schooling for Comanche children  
22 and served on the tribal court and as the deputy sheriff of Lawton,  
23 Oklahoma; in time, he became a very successful rancher in his own  
24 right, and he remained a highly respected figure among the Comanche  
25 until his death in 1911; and

26         WHEREAS, During one of the greatest social and cultural  
27 shifts in American history, Quanah Parker served the Comanche

1 people first as a warrior and then as a statesman, helping them  
2 retain their identity while adapting to a different way of life, and  
3 he stands as a pivotal figure in the history of the Lone Star State;  
4 now, therefore, be it

5       RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
6 hereby designate the second Saturday in September as Quanah Parker  
7 Day; and, be it further

8       RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
9 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
10 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
11 passed by the legislature.