87R22262 JGH-D

By:  Wilson H.C.R. No. 101

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The community of Florence in Williamson County is home to the Gault Archaeological Site, one of the oldest known places of human habitation in North America; and

WHEREAS, The earliest presence of humans at the Gault site has been dated to between 16,000 and 20,000 years ago, and artifacts recovered there show a near-continuous occupation of the area by 23 ancient cultures over the centuries; and

WHEREAS, Located in a valley along Buttermilk Creek, the site proved an ideal place for settlement since it offered ancient peoples an extraordinary combination of water, plentiful food, and large amounts of Edwards chert, a type of stone used to fashion tools; and

WHEREAS, Archaeological research being conducted at the Gault site is enabling anthropologists to gain a better understanding of the early inhabitants of North America and to develop new theories about when and how the continent was first populated by humans; and

WHEREAS, In addition being one of the oldest archaeological sites in North America, the Gault site is all the more unique for being located near a contemporary community, the city of Florence; and

WHEREAS, The Gault Archaeological Site is helping to rewrite the history of the first peoples of the Americas, and the modern citizens of Florence may indeed take great pride in their deep connection to the earliest residents of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the city of Florence as the oldest community in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.