

By: Schofield

H.R. No. 32

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family farms and ranches are vital to the economic
2 and cultural prosperity of the Lone Star State, and the
3 Beckendorff-Sword Home Place of Harris County is being recognized
4 for its role in this proud tradition with its induction into the
5 Family Land Heritage Program on October 18, 2023, at a ceremony at
6 the State Capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture,
8 the program honors farms and ranches that have been in continuous
9 agricultural operation by the same family for a century or more;
10 since 1974, TDA has recognized over 5,000 families whose proud
11 Texas legacy has passed from generation to generation and who have
12 served as dedicated stewards of their land; and

13 WHEREAS, The Beckendorff-Sword Home Place traces its origins
14 to April 1922, when Maggie Davis Mansell purchased 160 acres in
15 Harris County; she and her husband, Richard A. Mansell, were the
16 parents of seven children, William Aaron, Robert E. Lee, Bonnie
17 Mae, Jessie, M. L., Richard Davis, and Richard Guy, and they raised
18 swine and peanuts on their land; on December 12, 1940, the Mansell
19 farm was struck by a tornado; tragically, Mrs. Mansell's husband
20 was killed in the incident, and she was seriously injured; in 1967,
21 the property was divided among her children, and Jessie Beckendorff
22 and her husband, Roy, began farming some 32 acres; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1973, Mrs. Beckendorff's children, Leland,
24 Richard, and Ruby, inherited the land; three years later, Richard

1 Beckendorff traded his third of the property to his children, Kay
2 Beckendorff Sword and Randall Beckendorff, who harvested rice and
3 soybean crops before transitioning to hay and cattle production;
4 today, the Katy-area farm continues on under the ownership of
5 Ms. Beckendorff Sword, great-granddaughter of founder Maggie Davis
6 Mansell, who oversees a hay operation; and

7 WHEREAS, For more than 100 years, the Beckendorff-Sword Home
8 Place has played an important role in Harris County while helping to
9 preserve the rich agricultural history of Texas, and it is indeed
10 fitting that Kay Beckendorff Sword and the members of her family be
11 recognized for their outstanding stewardship; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
13 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the induction
14 of the Beckendorff-Sword Home Place into the Texas Department of
15 Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program and extend to all those
16 associated with the farm sincere best wishes for the future; and, be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Kay Beckendorff Sword as an expression of high regard
20 by the Texas House of Representatives.