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By:  Raney H.R. No. 154

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Since 1950, the Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of Texas have designated a week in March to pay tribute to our public school system; and

WHEREAS, Many of the state's earliest leaders were Masons who led the movement for public education; these included Stephen F. Austin and Mirabeau B. Lamar, nicknamed the "Father of Texas Education" for successfully advocating for a permanent endowment to support public education; thanks to his efforts, such a fund continues to supplement the education budget today; and

WHEREAS, In addition to their influence in shaping policy, Freemasons also established schools across Texas, often opening the doors of their lodges to any person with a desire for learning; they championed access to education for all at a crucial point in Texas history, and that dedication to public schools has remained an important focus of the organization; current members contribute to their communities by recognizing teachers with awards and providing scholarships to deserving students; and

WHEREAS, Texas public schools prepare a diverse student population for the unique challenges of the 21st century, and the success of these institutions relies on the hard work and cooperation of numerous professionals and volunteers alike; and

WHEREAS, A quality education is vital to the prosperity of individuals, families, communities, and the entire state, and it is indeed appropriate to pause and acknowledge the contributions of public schools to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 6 through 10, 2023, as Texas Public Schools Week and honor the members of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas for their commitment to these public institutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Grand Lodge of Texas as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.