88R6923 JGH-D

By:  Harris of Anderson H.R. No. 161

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Members of the Jacksonville Leadership Institute and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce are gathering in Austin on February 14, 2023, to celebrate Jacksonville Leadership Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Now the largest city in Cherokee County, Jacksonville was founded in 1847 along the banks of Gum Creek, and it was moved to its present location in 1872 to be closer to the railroad; and

WHEREAS, The early economy centered around agriculture, and Jacksonville was a leading center of peach production before tomatoes became the primary crop; today, the Jacksonville economy is supported by a diverse mix of industries, ranging from plastic manufacturing to major clothing shipping outlets, medical facilities, and more; the city is also home to the family-owned Texas Basket Company, which supplies unique handcrafted baskets nationwide and celebrated its first 100 years of business in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Education is an important part of the Jacksonville community, and the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is located there, as is Jacksonville College, one of the last remaining private junior colleges in the state; additionally, all eight campuses of the Jacksonville Independent School District have been recipients of the highest rating from the Texas Education Agency; and

WHEREAS, Home to numerous attractions, Jacksonville has been called the Tomato Capital of the World, and it continues to celebrate that heritage with the annual Tomato Festival; moreover, it has been recognized for creating the world's largest bowl of salsa; the city is also the site of the Tomato Bowl football and soccer stadium, which has been in operation since 1940 and is one of the last remaining downtown stadiums in Texas, as well as Love's Lookout, a scenic park featuring breathtaking views; and

WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy a number of special events, including the Jacksonville Tomato Fest, the Nicky Wheeler Memorial Bull Riding event, the Tops in Texas Rodeo, and competitions at River Run ATV Park; furthermore, Lake Jacksonville provides a setting for camping, boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Jacksonville are working to preserve their rich history even as they look ahead to the opportunities of the future, and they may take justifiable pride in their unique contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 14, 2023, as Jacksonville Leadership Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.