88R12538 BK-D

By:  Kacal H.R. No. 303

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud residents of Washington County are gathering in Austin on February 27, 2023, to celebrate the unique role their county has played in the history and ongoing development of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, In 1821, settlers recruited by Stephen F. Austin began to homestead this region of rolling hills just west of the Brazos River; during the Texas Revolution, the ferry crossing known as Washington-on-the-Brazos became the headquarters of General Sam Houston and the site of the Convention of 1836, which declared the independence of Texas; the town was the capital of the new republic from 1842 to 1845; and

WHEREAS, Washington County was organized in 1837, and Brenham became the county seat in 1844; the county's prospects were improved by the thousands of immigrants from Germany and Poland who arrived during the 1860s and 1870s, and its economy was further spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1880; in those years, cotton, corn, and poultry were the region's mainstays; and

WHEREAS, The area played an important role in the history of higher education in Texas; Baylor University was founded in the county in 1846, and in 1855 Soule University was founded in Chappell Hill; today, Blinn College in Brenham carries on the proud tradition; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's central role in the history of Texas draws visitors from across the state and nation; the Star of the Republic Museum, Independence Hall, and the Barrington Living History Farm at the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site vividly evoke the years of the Texas Republic; the Chappell Hill Historic District includes a historical museum and a Masonic cemetery with descendants of William B. Travis and is the site of the "Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas," which is held each year in April; and

WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the recreation opportunities of Lake Somerville, local wineries, dozens of bed and breakfast lodging properties, the Antique Rose Emporium, the county's scenic country roads where wildflowers bloom in profusion, Unity Theatre, and the Barnhill Center; the county also benefits economically from the presence of Blue Bell Creameries, where one of the nation's best-selling brands of ice cream is made, as well as major production and global distribution facilities for BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings and its parent corporation, Del Sol Food Company; and

WHEREAS, Honoring their rich history as they continue to build an even brighter future, the residents of Washington County have many reasons to be proud of the place they call home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2023, as Washington County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.