88R18103 BPG-D

By:  Orr H.R. No. 559

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Hill County are gathering in Austin on March 16, 2023, to celebrate Hill County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, On February 7, 1853, Hill County was created from the western section of Navarro County by an act of the state legislature; it was named in honor of Dr. George Washington Hill, a member of the Congress of the Republic of Texas and the secretary of war and navy under President Sam Houston; later that year, citizens convened at Lexington on Jack's Branch to elect their public officials, and Hillsboro was platted and designated as the county seat; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Hill County have demonstrated lasting appreciation for the unique history of their area; following a devastating fire in 1993, they carefully restored the splendid county courthouse, with assistance from Abbott native Willie Nelson, who played two benefit concerts for the effort; the Second Empire-style building, constructed in 1890, is listed in the National Register of Historic places and continues to serve as a hub for government operations; and

WHEREAS, Hill College houses the Texas Heritage Museum, which boasts an extensive collection of Audie Murphy artifacts, a 10,000-volume library on the Civil War, and the official Texas Medal of Honor memorial; while meeting academic and workforce needs, the college also fosters cultural enrichment through its popular performing arts series; and

WHEREAS, Now home to more than 36,000 people, the county hosts a number of events enjoyed by residents of Hillsboro, Hubbard, Itasca, Whitney, and other communities; annual favorites include the county fair, Autumnfest, Cinco de Mayo, Pioneer Days, and Hubbard City Trade Days; recreational opportunities abound at Lake Whitney State Park, a prime destination for camping, hiking, boating, and bird watching; and

WHEREAS, Stargazers eagerly anticipate April 8, 2024, when Hillsboro will offer one of the world's best vantage points for viewing the solar eclipse, according to *Astronomy* magazine; the future also holds the opening of a 74,000-square-foot Buc-ees establishment, a certain boon to the economy; and

WHEREAS, Changing with the times while maintaining its friendliness and charm, Hill County continues to cultivate the qualities that have long made it an outstanding place in which to live, work, and raise a family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 16, 2023, as Hill County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.