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By:  Slaton H.R. No. 886

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Our nation's first president, George Washington, delivered a moving proclamation on October 3, 1789, designating the following 26th day of November as a day of thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, In early America, Thanksgiving was a sporadic observance at the local level, generally at harvest time; a member of the House of Representatives, Elias Boudinot of Massachusetts, proposed in 1789 that a general day of thanksgiving be held to thank God for giving the American people the opportunity to protect their hard-won freedom by establishing a Constitution; and

WHEREAS, A Congressional Joint Committee approved Representative Boudinot's motion and informed President Washington; he then proclaimed November 26 of that year as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer"; and

WHEREAS, President Washington opened his proclamation with the words: "Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor"; and

WHEREAS, In addition, President Washington asked that Americans unite in prayer for a government that is "a blessing to all the People"; in furtherance of that noble goal, Texas elected officials at all levels are encouraged to uphold the four responsibilities that President Washington outlined, namely "to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate President George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation of October 3, 1789.