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By:  Kitzman H.R. No. 1188

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud residents of Waller County are marking the 150th anniversary of their county's founding on May 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Encompassing 514 square miles of land in the lower coastal plain of southeast Texas, Waller County combines rolling timber in the north with coastal prairie in the south; when the state legislature established the county in 1873, by carving out portions of Austin and Grimes Counties, Hempstead was designated as the seat of government; the creation of the Houston and Texas Central Railway spurred the growth of the county during the early years of its existence, and railway companies were involved in the development of Hempstead as well as the town of Brookshire; and

WHEREAS, The county's economy was largely driven by cotton production, before it pivoted with the discovery of oil in the 1930s; in more recent years, it has benefited from being at the nexus of two major transportation corridors, with U.S. Route 290 leading from Austin to Houston and Interstate 10 connecting Houston to San Antonio and El Paso; and

WHEREAS, Waller County boasts a diverse population of nearly 60,000 people, a number that has grown steadily since the mid-20th century; the area offers citizens a small-town, rural way of life, while still being within commuting distance of Houston; its natural beauty is enhanced by the abundance of bluebonnets that bloom there in the spring, and residents and visitors alike enjoy such annual events as the Waller County Fair, the Hempstead Watermelon Festival, and the Katy Rice Festival; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their history as they work to build an even brighter future, the people of Waller County may indeed take great pride in the role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the sesquicentennial of Waller County and extend to the county's residents sincere best wishes for the future.