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By:  Price H.R. No. 2256

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Americans across the land are gathering on Thanksgiving, November 23, 2023, to reflect on the many blessings the year has brought; and

WHEREAS, The history of this cherished celebration spans four centuries, tracing its roots back to 1621; met by a harsh New England winter that year, the struggling European settlers at Plymouth Rock received welcome assistance from the Wampanoag people, who taught them vital farming and survival techniques; in a display of gratitude toward God for answering their prayers for help, the Pilgrims held a three-day feast, and together with their Wampanoag neighbors, they enjoyed the fruits of a bountiful harvest; and

WHEREAS, The Thanksgiving holiday was first officially observed more than 150 years later, soon after the founding fathers established this great nation; in George Washington's first presidential proclamation in 1789, he enacted a day of thanksgiving and prayer to acknowledge the "many signal favors of Almighty God" that had been bestowed on the American people; and

WHEREAS, Decades later, in the tumultuous days of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Thanksgiving Day proclamation that would set the standard for every president that followed; in his now famous speech, he urged Americans to call on "the Almighty hand" to heal the Union and implored the people to remember the source from which "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies" come; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Thanksgiving holiday, observed each year on the fourth Thursday in November, is one of our most dearly held traditions, offering an opportunity to join with family and friends in expressing appreciation for the many gifts of the past year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate Thanksgiving 2023.