

By: Harris of Anderson

H.R. No. 161

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Jacksonville Leadership Institute
2 and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce are gathering in Austin on
3 February 14, 2023, to celebrate Jacksonville Leadership Day at the
4 State Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, Now the largest city in Cherokee County,
6 Jacksonville was founded in 1847 along the banks of Gum Creek, and
7 it was moved to its present location in 1872 to be closer to the
8 railroad; and

9 WHEREAS, The early economy centered around agriculture, and
10 Jacksonville was a leading center of peach production before
11 tomatoes became the primary crop; today, the Jacksonville economy
12 is supported by a diverse mix of industries, ranging from plastic
13 manufacturing to major clothing shipping outlets, medical
14 facilities, and more; the city is also home to the family-owned
15 Texas Basket Company, which supplies unique handcrafted baskets
16 nationwide and celebrated its first 100 years of business in 2019;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Education is an important part of the Jacksonville
19 community, and the Baptist Missionary Association Theological
20 Seminary is located there, as is Jacksonville College, one of the
21 last remaining private junior colleges in the state; additionally,
22 all eight campuses of the Jacksonville Independent School District
23 have been recipients of the highest rating from the Texas Education
24 Agency; and

1 WHEREAS, Home to numerous attractions, Jacksonville has been
2 called the Tomato Capital of the World, and it continues to
3 celebrate that heritage with the annual Tomato Festival; moreover,
4 it has been recognized for creating the world's largest bowl of
5 salsa; the city is also the site of the Tomato Bowl football and
6 soccer stadium, which has been in operation since 1940 and is one of
7 the last remaining downtown stadiums in Texas, as well as Love's
8 Lookout, a scenic park featuring breathtaking views; and

9 WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy a number of
10 special events, including the Jacksonville Tomato Fest, the Nicky
11 Wheeler Memorial Bull Riding event, the Tops in Texas Rodeo, and
12 competitions at River Run ATV Park; furthermore, Lake Jacksonville
13 provides a setting for camping, boating, fishing, and other outdoor
14 activities; and

15 WHEREAS, The citizens of Jacksonville are working to preserve
16 their rich history even as they look ahead to the opportunities of
17 the future, and they may take justifiable pride in their unique
18 contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 14, 2023, as Jacksonville
22 Leadership Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
23 delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay
24 in Austin.