

By: Parker

S.C.R. No. 8

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has benefited enormously from  
3 the contributions of its Italian American residents; and

4 WHEREAS, During the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, the  
5 few Italians who came to Texas were mainly explorers, adventurers,  
6 or missionaries; Italians began to play a larger role toward the end  
7 of the 19th century, when Piedmontese made their homes in Montague  
8 County and Sicilians settled in the lower Brazos valley and on the  
9 Galveston County mainland; Modenese, Venetians, and Piedmontese  
10 worked the coal mines at Thurber, and Italian financier Joseph  
11 Telfener brought some 1,200 Lombards to help construct the New  
12 York, Texas and Mexican Railway between Victoria and Rosenberg; and

13 WHEREAS, Most of the railway builders and coal miners moved  
14 back to Italy or on to other places when their work was completed;  
15 however, the Italian American community in the Brazos valley fanned  
16 out into surrounding areas, and settlements in Houston, Galveston,  
17 and San Antonio expanded rapidly; new residents founded churches,  
18 newspapers, and benevolent-fraternal organizations, as well as  
19 businesses; prominent Italian Americans of the 20th century include  
20 bootmaker Sam Lucchese, sculptor Pompeo Coppini, rancher Antonio  
21 Mateo Bruni, and agriculturalist-developer Biagio Varisco; the  
22 towns of Bruni and Varisco and such names as Bruni Park, Varisco  
23 Airport, Liggio Street, and Laneri Avenue are a testament to the  
24 achievements of Italian Americans; and

1           WHEREAS, Through the years, individuals of Italian descent  
2 have excelled in all sectors of our society and economy, enriching  
3 our cultural tapestry, enhancing our prosperity, and securing the  
4 Lone Star State's reputation as a land of promise and possibility;  
5 most recently, Italian Americans have made prominent contributions  
6 throughout the state in such areas as aerospace, energy,  
7 technology, science, research, and arts and culture, in addition to  
8 construction and economic development projects; June 2 represents  
9 an ideal date on which to honor all of those accomplishments, as  
10 Italians around the world celebrate this day as Festa della  
11 Repubblica to commemorate the 1946 referendum that ended the  
12 monarchy in Italy and established a republic and to commemorate  
13 over 160 years since the unification of Italy; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby designate June 2 as Italian Heritage Day; and, be it further

16           RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
17 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
18 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
19 passed by the legislature.