

By: Birdwell

S.R. No. 432

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the residents and leaders of Waco in recognizing May 7 through 13, 2023, as Travel and Tourism Week in the City of Waco; and

WHEREAS, Waco is a thriving cultural hub on the banks of the Brazos River in the heart of the Lone Star State; over the years, Waco has become a destination for tourists, and its economy has benefited from this growing tourism industry; according to the Texas Economic Development and Tourism 2021 Travel Economic Impact Overview, the Waco metropolitan area has generated nearly \$700 million in travel spending, which has increased employment and tax revenue related to travel and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, With an appealing blend of rural charm and cosmopolitan flair, this vibrant city features a wealth of cultural spaces and historical sites for its residents and visitors; the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum showcases the history of Texas' original border-protection force and now the state's primary investigative law enforcement agency, while the Texas Sports Hall of Fame affords sports aficionados the chance to browse the memorabilia and tales of the state's most outstanding sports legends; and

WHEREAS, Baylor University is a prestigious private

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Baptist school noted for its outstanding sports programs and renowned for producing generations of well-educated and responsible citizens; located in the heart of Waco, its beautiful campus and splendid gardens complement the school's many historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, Waco is home to many inviting natural sites and recreational areas including hiking trails, archaeological sites, and water parks that attract numerous visitors; the Waco Mammoth National Monument offers the opportunity to view fossils of Columbian mammoths, and Cameron Park, adjacent to Cameron Park Zoo, encompasses playscapes and wildflower fields; in addition, the picturesque shops in the Magnolia Market at the Silos have added to Waco's growing popularity; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Waco can take pride in the city's many cultural, academic, and economic offerings as well as in its rich heritage and local history; Waco's notable contributions to the state's economy as a travel and tourism destination total more than \$65 million generated in tax in 2021, and Waco's travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 5,800 workers; it is no small wonder that tourists and travelers are drawn to Waco and its charming beauty, and it is indeed fitting that the city's leaders and residents join in celebrating Travel and Tourism Week in Waco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize May 7 through 13, 2023, as Waco Travel and Tourism Week and extend to the city's residents best wishes for the week's events and for the future ahead; and, be it

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further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the city as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.