

By: Middleton

S.R. No. 445

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Each year on April 21, people throughout the Lone
2 Star State commemorate San Jacinto Day in honor of the decisive
3 battlefield victory that brought about the independence of the
4 Republic of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, On that date in the year 1836, the Texan forces led
6 by General Sam Houston faced a crucial moment in their
7 revolutionary struggle against the rule of Mexican dictator Antonio
8 Lopez de Santa Anna; over the course of the previous six weeks,
9 Texan forces had been defeated at both the Alamo and Goliad, and
10 General Houston's army had retreated steadily to the east;
11 meanwhile, the Mexican troops commanded by General Santa Anna were
12 determined to follow up their earlier victories by seizing the
13 seaports along the Texas coast; by mid-April, the two armies were
14 within a few miles of one another in the bayou country near the San
15 Jacinto River; General Houston decided that the time for attack had
16 arrived; and

17 WHEREAS, Moving into position on the afternoon of April 21,
18 the Texans formed their battle lines, and with cries of "Remember
19 the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!," they surged toward the Mexican
20 encampment; when the guns went quiet less than 20 minutes later, the
21 Mexican army had been routed, with more than 600 of its troops
22 killed and more than 700 taken prisoner; only nine Texans were
23 killed or mortally wounded in the fighting; and

24 WHEREAS, The following day, General Santa Anna was captured

1 and, after meeting with General Houston, agreed to order all
2 Mexican troops to leave Texas; later, he agreed to the Treaties of
3 Velasco, which recognized the independence of Texas; with these
4 steps, Mexican rule in Texas effectively came to an end, and the
5 Republic of Texas was established; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals from a range of backgrounds contributed
7 to this epic battlefield victory; among them were a company of
8 Tejano troops who served bravely under the command of the prominent
9 revolutionary leader Juan Nepomuceno Seguin and are representative
10 of the many Hispanics who took up arms in the independence movement;
11 another Latino member of the Texan army was Lorenzo de Zavala Jr.,
12 the son of the republic's vice president; as an aide to Sam Houston,
13 he acted as a translator in the general's negotiations with Santa
14 Anna; and

15 WHEREAS, Soldiers young and old were part of the fight for the
16 Texans; there were teenagers such as 15-year-old William P. Zuber,
17 16-year-olds Thomas O'Conner and Cornelius DeVore, and
18 19-year-olds Alfonso Steele and Elijah Votaw; on the other end of
19 the spectrum were James Curtis Sr., and John S. Meniffee, both 57
20 years old, and Asa Mitchell, the oldest person in the battle at age
21 60; in addition, General Houston's forces contained troops who had
22 earlier taken part in the fighting at Goliad as well as individuals
23 who had been present at the Alamo but had been ordered to leave the
24 fort before its fall to carry out various missions; after surviving
25 those engagements, they were able to assist in vanquishing the
26 enemy force that had killed so many of their fellow Texans; and

27 WHEREAS, Demonstrating the courage and determination that

1 are so much a part of the Texas character, the valiant members of
2 Sam Houston's army charged across a grassy battlefield in April of
3 1836, intent on securing liberty and avenging their fallen
4 comrades; their steps set in motion a series of events that have
5 made the State of Texas into the prosperous land that we enjoy
6 today, and the momentous events of that day indeed deserve to be
7 remembered and celebrated; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
9 hereby commemorate San Jacinto Day in the year 2023.