

By: Leo Wilson

H.R. No. 109

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of First Lutheran Church of Galveston
2 are marking the 175th anniversary of their church's founding in
3 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally known as First German Evangelical
5 Lutheran Church, this venerable house of worship was founded by
6 German immigrants in 1850, and it received its charter from the
7 State of Texas in the fall of 1851; as no public school existed in
8 Galveston at the time, the church stepped in to educate the children
9 of the community by establishing its own school in the city's Lyceum
10 Hall that same year; the church later purchased the structure and
11 relocated it to its property; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1900, much of Galveston Island was leveled by a
13 hurricane; in the wake of this disaster of historic magnitude, the
14 church opened its doors to shelter displaced members of the
15 community; its sanctuary and lyceum, severely damaged by the storm,
16 were later restored, and they continue to be used today for
17 celebrations and events; and

18 WHEREAS, After World War II, the church adopted its current
19 name and ceased using the German language in its worship services;
20 despite this shift, the church continues to proudly honor its
21 German roots through its nationally recognized Oktoberfest event,
22 which draws visitors from all over the country and helps support its
23 mission and preservation efforts; in 1984, the church was entered
24 into the National Register of Historic Places and was recognized as

1 the oldest Lutheran parish of German origin with a continuous
2 ministry in Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its organization, First Lutheran Church of
4 Galveston has benefited from the dedicated efforts of many
5 outstanding clergy, and today that legacy is carried forward by the
6 Reverend Richard Rhoades; members of this notable house of worship
7 have established a variety of commendable programs that foster
8 fellowship and offer help to those in need, including Feed
9 Galveston and Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy; and

10 WHEREAS, Generations of Texans have looked to First Lutheran
11 Church of Galveston for guidance, inspiration, and hope over the
12 course of its long history, and it is a pleasure to recognize the
13 abiding faith and commitment of those who have sustained the church
14 across three centuries; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
16 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 175th
17 anniversary of First Lutheran Church of Galveston and extend to the
18 congregation sincere best wishes for many more years of shared
19 prayer and fellowship; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.