

By: Lowe

H.C.R. No. 88

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, April 19, 2025, marks the 250th anniversary of the
2 Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, when the "shot
3 heard 'round the world" signaled the beginning of the American
4 Revolutionary War--later culminating in the signing of the
5 Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; and

6 WHEREAS, Following years of simmering tensions between Great
7 Britain and its 13 American colonies, especially Massachusetts, the
8 level of conflict reached a boiling point in 1775; angered by the
9 imposition of onerous taxes and military rule, colonists protested
10 with the rallying cry "no taxation without representation" and
11 joined local militias; the colonial patriots had learned of the
12 British plan to seize their weapons cache in Concord, and late on
13 the night of April 18, Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel
14 Prescott rode out to spread the news to minutemen, who quickly
15 mobilized; and

16 WHEREAS, Some 700 to 800 British soldiers arrived in
17 Lexington at dawn on April 19 and found about 80 militiamen gathered
18 on the town green; the British demanded that they disperse, but
19 before they could do so, a shot rang out from an unknown source; the
20 British subsequently attacked, killing 8 militiamen and wounding 10
21 more; some troops pursued fleeing militiamen while the light
22 infantry pushed on toward Concord; their search for hidden weapons
23 proved largely fruitless, as the colonists had already moved most
24 of them; the British then contended with a much larger colonial

1 force in a second skirmish, and as the "redcoats"--as British
2 soldiers were then called--retreated toward Boston, further
3 American reinforcements arrived to inflict heavy damage from behind
4 trees, walls, and buildings; during the increasingly chaotic fight,
5 73 "redcoats" were killed, over 170 were wounded, and 26 went
6 missing; American losses were 50 killed, 39 wounded, and 5 missing;
7 within two days, 15,000 men from across New England had surrounded
8 the British in Boston; and

9 WHEREAS, Although the April 1775 Battles of Lexington and
10 Concord did not constitute a serious military defeat for the
11 British, they proved politically disastrous, demonstrating that
12 the American citizen soldiers, most of them farmers or tradesmen,
13 could successfully stand up to an empire's professional army; the
14 violence ultimately transformed the colonists' antipathy toward
15 British policy into a blazing resolve to win independence; and

16 WHEREAS, In the words of John Adams, with the Battles of
17 Lexington and Concord, "the die was cast, the Rubicon crossed," and
18 it is indeed fitting to pay tribute to the courage, acumen, and
19 determination that characterized this momentous turning point in
20 the founding of the United States of America; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of
23 Lexington and Concord.