

By: Wharton

H.R. No. 381

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Washington County are gathering
2 in Austin on February 26, 2025, to celebrate the unique role their
3 county has played in the history and ongoing development of the Lone
4 Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1821, settlers recruited by Stephen F. Austin
6 began to homestead this region of rolling hills just west of the
7 Brazos River; during the Texas Revolution, the ferry crossing known
8 as Washington-on-the-Brazos became the headquarters of General Sam
9 Houston and the site of the Convention of 1836, which declared the
10 independence of Texas; the town was the capital of the new republic
11 from 1842 to 1845; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington County was organized in 1837, and Brenham
13 became the county seat in 1844; the county's prospects were
14 improved by the thousands of immigrants from Germany and Poland who
15 arrived during the 1860s and 1870s, and its economy was further
16 spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1880; in those years,
17 cotton, corn, and poultry were the region's mainstays; and

18 WHEREAS, The area played an important role in the history of
19 higher education in Texas; Baylor University was founded in the
20 county in 1846, and in 1855 Soule University was founded in Chappell
21 Hill; today, Blinn College in Brenham carries on the proud
22 tradition; and

23 WHEREAS, Washington County's central role in the history of
24 Texas draws visitors from across the state and nation; the Star of

1 the Republic Museum, Independence Hall, and the Barrington
2 Plantation State Historic Site at the Washington-on-the-Brazos
3 State Historic Site vividly evoke the years of the Texas Republic;
4 the Chappell Hill Historic District includes a historical museum
5 and a Masonic cemetery with descendants of William B. Travis and is
6 the site of the "Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas," which is
7 held each year in April; and

8 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include the recreation
9 opportunities of Lake Somerville, local wineries, dozens of bed and
10 breakfast lodging properties, the Antique Rose Emporium, the
11 county's scenic country roads where wildflowers bloom in profusion,
12 Unity Theatre, and the Barnhill Center; the county also benefits
13 economically from the presence of Blue Bell Creameries, where one
14 of the nation's best-selling brands of ice cream is made, as well as
15 major production and global distribution facilities for BRIANNAS
16 Fine Salad Dressings and its parent corporation, Del Sol Food
17 Company; and

18 WHEREAS, Honoring their rich history as they continue to
19 build an even brighter future, the residents of Washington County
20 have many reasons to be proud of the place they call home; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
23 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2025, as Washington
24 County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the
25 visiting delegation.