

By: Huffman

S.R. No. 123

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The outstanding endeavors of the Consulate General
2 of France in Houston serve to strengthen the meaningful connections
3 with Texas that have spanned many centuries; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1685, famed French explorer René-Robert
5 Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, landed at present-day Matagorda Bay
6 and built the Fort St. Louis stockade; the settlement was
7 short-lived, but in 1818, a friend of Napoleon Bonaparte, General
8 Charles Francois Antoine Lallemand, brought a band of army veterans
9 to establish Champ d'Asile on thinly populated Spanish territory
10 near modern Liberty; Spain did not take kindly to the incursion, but
11 the brief French presence helped to define the Sabine River as the
12 border between Louisiana and Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, France was the second country to recognize the
14 Republic of Texas as a sovereign nation, and the two countries
15 signed a commercial treaty in 1839 and opened their respective
16 legations in Austin and Paris; in the following decade, more than
17 2,000 French Alsatians flocked to Castroville under the leadership
18 of banker Henri Castro, and across the state, French Catholic
19 missionaries developed schools and hospitals; and

20 WHEREAS, Favorable relations continued after Texas entered
21 the Union and have flourished through the years; our economies
22 benefit by the dynamism of imports and exports, totaling \$15.6
23 billion in 2022, making France our state's 14th-largest trade
24 partner; in the last decade, French companies reported more than 80

1 investment projects in Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, Led since 2021 by Consul General Valérie Baraban,
3 the Consulate General of France in Houston provides services to
4 French citizens living in the Lone Star State; it also promotes
5 French business, science, and technology and fosters language
6 learning and cultural appreciation through its Villa Albertine in
7 Texas program; in 2024, it partnered in the creation of the
8 French-American Cultural Foundation; and

9 WHEREAS, The friendship between France and Texas has long
10 been a driver of prosperity and a source of vibrant cultural
11 enrichment, and the efforts of the Consulate General of France in
12 Houston continue to invigorate this multifaceted and mutually
13 valuable exchange; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
15 hereby honor the Consulate General of France in Houston for its
16 contributions and recognize the enduring bonds between France and
17 Texas; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the consulate as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas Senate.