

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission, whose  
2 responsibility is to protect and preserve the state's historic and  
3 prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and  
4 economic benefit of present and future generations, celebrates its  
5 50th anniversary in 2003; and

6           WHEREAS, Texas lawmakers, seeing a need to coordinate efforts  
7 to ensure the preservation of the state's unique history, created  
8 the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in 1953 to identify  
9 historic sites and resources across the state; and

10          WHEREAS, Today that committee has come to be known as the  
11 Texas Historical Commission, an agency noted both nationally and  
12 internationally for its work in helping communities preserve their  
13 historic character and assisting Texans with questions and concerns  
14 about archeology, architecture, history, economic development, and  
15 heritage tourism; and

16          WHEREAS, In fulfilling its mission as the state agency for  
17 historic preservation, the Texas Historical Commission has  
18 developed and is implementing a strategic plan that is detailed in  
19 the document *Preserving Our Texas Heritage: A Statewide Plan for*  
20 *Texas*; and

21          WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission is working with 142  
22 counties to promote travel to historic sites and surrounding areas  
23 through the Texas Heritage Trails Program, an initiative designed  
24 to stimulate the state's regional economies; and

1           WHEREAS, Another successful undertaking, the commission's  
2 Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, has drawn the  
3 attention of other states for its achievements in restoring  
4 historic county courthouses and promoting economic growth and  
5 development in county seats across the state, particularly in rural  
6 areas of Texas; and

7           WHEREAS, In Matagorda Bay in 1995, Texas Historical  
8 Commission archeologists discovered one of the most important  
9 shipwrecks in North American history, La Salle's ship the *Belle*;  
10 their year-long excavation resulted in the recovery of more than a  
11 million artifacts and the conservation of the ship's hull; they  
12 then went on to excavate nearby Fort St. Louis, the state's first  
13 European settlement; and

14           WHEREAS, The Texas Main Street Program, established in 1981,  
15 has become one of the most successful such endeavors in the nation,  
16 stimulating more than \$880 million in private-sector downtown  
17 reinvestment, creating over 19,000 new jobs in Texas, and leading  
18 to the expansion or recruitment of more than 4,800 businesses; and

19           WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission has distributed  
20 more than \$2.4 million in grant money to assist Texas communities in  
21 establishing high standards of preservation through the Certified  
22 Local Government Program; it has also disbursed over \$2 million to  
23 help save endangered historic buildings and important  
24 archeological sites through the Texas Preservation Trust Fund; and

25           WHEREAS, More than 12,000 historical markers have been  
26 erected by the commission, the largest number in any state; in  
27 addition, the commission works to protect and designate historic

1 cemeteries throughout Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, The agency reaches out to communities through its  
3 county historical commissions; in 2002, more than 4,500 individuals  
4 donated 215,000 hours to local preservation efforts; and

5 WHEREAS, For half a century, the Texas Historical Commission  
6 has initiated and carried out programs that have been instrumental  
7 in preserving the state's historic resources and that have  
8 contributed significantly to local economies; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby extend sincere thanks to the Texas Historical Commission for  
11 its efforts in preserving the unique history of the Lone Star State  
12 and encourage all Texans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the  
13 commission by visiting historic Texas sites throughout the year.

Hilderbran

Craddick	Giddings	Merritt
Allen	Goodman	Miller
Alonzo	Goolsby	Moreno of Harris
Bailey	Griggs	Moreno of El Paso
Baxter	Grusendorf	Morrison
Berman	Guillen	Mowery
Bohac	Gutierrez	Naishtat
Bonnen	Haggerty	Nixon
Branch	Hamilton	Noriega
Brown of Kaufman	Hamric	Oliveira
Brown of Brazos	Hardcastle	Olivo
Burnam	Harper-Brown	Paxton
Callegari	Hartnett	Pena
Campbell	Heflin	Phillips
Canales	Hegar	Pickett
Capelo	Hilderbran	Pitts
Casteel	Hill	Puente
Castro	Hochberg	Quintanilla
Chavez	Hodge	Rangel
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Christian	Hope	Reyna
Coleman	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Navarro	Howard	Ritter
Cook of Colorado	Hughes	Rodriguez
Corte	Hunter	Rose
Crabb	Hupp	Seaman
Crownover	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Harris	Jones of Lubbock	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Jones of Bexar	Smithee
Dawson	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Delisi	Keel	Solomons
Denny	Keffer of Dallas	Stick
Deshotel	Keffer of Eastland	Swinford
Driver	King	Talton
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Dunnam	Krusee	Telford
Dutton	Kuempel	Thompson
Edwards	Laney	Truitt
Eiland	Laubenberg	Turner
Eissler	Lewis	Uresti
Elkins	Luna	Van Arsdale
Ellis	Mabry	Villarreal
Farabee	Madden	West
Farrar	Marchant	Wilson
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Wise
Flynn	McCall	Wohlgemuth
Gallego	McClendon	Wolens
Garza	McReynolds	Wong
Gattis	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Mercer	Zedler

David Newkurt

President of the Senate

Tom Cobden

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 63 was adopted by the House on February 26, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Nancy  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 63 was adopted by the Senate on February 26, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Letsy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 3.4.03

Date

RICK PERRY  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2:50p.m. O'CLOCK

MAR 04 2003  
Angus Shea  
Secretary of State