# **EIGHTEENTH DAY**

# WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

#### PROCEEDINGS

The Senate met at 11:00 a.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by President Pro Tempore Shapiro.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Armbrister, Averitt, Barrientos, Brimer, Deuell, Duncan, Ellis, Eltife, Estes, Fraser, Gallegos, Harris, Hinojosa, Jackson, Lindsay, Lucio, Madla, Nelson, Ogden, Seliger, Shapiro, Shapleigh, Staples, Van de Putte, Wentworth, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Carona, Janek, Williams.

The Presiding Officer announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The Reverend Scott W. Fisher, Metroplex Chapel, Euless, offered the invocation as follows:

Almighty Father, we set aside this moment to honor You and to declare our need for You. Your word tells us that government was Your idea and that when You created man in Your image, You assigned him the task of ruling over the works of Your hands. You instruct us in how to rule: with justice balanced with mercy and humility. You encourage us to pray for our leaders, for those in positions of authority. Today, we ask that You would bless the Members of this body. Give them wisdom and courage to lead with integrity. Guard their hearts and help them to serve with an attitude of selflessness. May our Lieutenant Governor, each Senator, and every staff member experience and know Your great love for them. May justice, mercy, and humility be the hallmarks of this body and each Member of it. Bless them today, we ask. In the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Senator Whitmire moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Carona was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Janek was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Williams was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

# **CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 383**

On motion of Senator Ellis, Senator Madla will be shown as Co-author of SB 383.

# **CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 384**

On motion of Senator Ellis, Senators Madla and Lucio will be shown as Co-authors of SB 384.

# **CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 426**

On motion of Senator Shapleigh, Senator Nelson will be shown as Co-author of **SB 426**.

# **CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 440**

On motion of Senator Ellis, Senator Lucio will be shown as Co-author of SB 440.

# **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

HOUSE CHAMBER Austin, Texas February 16, 2005

The Honorable President of the Senate Senate Chamber Austin, Texas

Mr. President:

I am directed by the House to inform the Senate that the House has taken the following action:

THE HOUSE HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

**HCR 42,** Commending Renato Ramirez for his beneficence in behalf of Texas A&M International University.

HCR 58, Recognizing February 15, 2005, as Tarrant County Day at the State Capitol.

SCR 3, In memory of King Fisher of Port Lavaca.

**SCR 4,** Granting permission to the Texas DeMolay Association to use the chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives during February 19 and 20, 2005, and February 18 and 19, 2006.

Respectfully,

/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk House of Representatives

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Zaffirini was recognized and introduced to the Senate senior class members from Three Rivers High School in Three Rivers, accompanied by their sponsors and school officials.

# **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following Messages from the Governor were read and were referred to the Committee on Nominations:

Austin, Texas February 16, 2005

TO THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION:

I ask the advice, consent and confirmation of the Senate with respect to the following appointment:

To be Judge of the 234th Judicial District Court in Harris County for a term until the next General Election and until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified:

Mauricio "Reece" Rondon

Bellaire, Texas

(Judge Rondon is replacing Judge Bruce Oakley who resigned)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Rick Perry Governor

Austin, Texas February 16, 2005

TO THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION:

On January 18, 2005, I submitted the name of Kelly B. Hendricks of Humble for appointment to the Polygraph Examiners Board for a term to expire June 18, 2009.

I hereby withdraw her nomination for this board and request that the Senate return this appointment to me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Rick Perry Governor

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 137**

Senator Fraser offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize February 16, 2005, as Texas Midwest Day in Austin; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Midwest is known for its scenic plains and rich history and is home to a host of cities offering a wide array of opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The counties that comprise the Texas Midwest are Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Comanche, Concho, Eastland, Erath, Fisher, Hamilton, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, McCulloch, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton; and WHEREAS, The area is a combination of traditional ranch lands, farms, and large stretches of oil and gas reserves; once populated with Comanche Indians and other tribes, the Texas Midwest is dotted with historic sites and museums that provide an intriguing overview of life in the Old West; and

WHEREAS, Texas Midwest Day in Austin provides the opportunity to demonstrate a strong voice for rural Texas and to bring attention to issues of concern in the region; the event also strengthens the participation of Texas Midwest citizens in the legislative process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the counties of the Texas Midwest on their many contributions to our state and extend best wishes to all who are participating in Texas Midwest Day in Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the counties of the Texas Midwest as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

FRASER DUNCAN ESTES

SR 137 was read and was adopted without objection.

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Fraser, joined by Senators Duncan and Estes, was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation from the Texas Midwest Community Network.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

## **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Eltife was recognized and introduced to the Senate representatives of the East Texas Regional Food Bank.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 128**

Senator Harris offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the residents of Tarrant County and the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce in celebrating Tarrant County Day at the State Capitol on February 16, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Tarrant County was created in 1849 and named for General Edward H. Tarrant; the third most populous county in Texas, it is home to the international headquarters of such corporate giants as American Airlines, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Pier 1, and RadioShack; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities for educational growth and job skills training are provided by such outstanding Tarrant County institutions of higher education as Tarrant County College, Texas Christian University, Texas Wesleyan University, the University of North Texas Health Science Center, and The University of Texas at Arlington; and WHEREAS, Located in North Central Texas on the Grand Prairie and Blackland Prairies, Tarrant County is a popular area for vacationing, and today, the flavor of the Old West is still inspiring in the county's ranch lands, museums, art, and recreational centers; and

WHEREAS, The county is home to some of the state's most outstanding cultural attractions, including the Amon G. Carter Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Located in Fort Worth, the county seat, the Amon G. Carter Museum contains a fabulous collection of American art, featuring permanent collections of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell; and

WHEREAS, Famous for its nationally known tourism centers, such as the Fort Worth Stockyards, the Fort Worth Zoo, Six Flags Over Texas, and Grapevine Mills Mall, Tarrant County is often referred to as "Where the West Begins"; and

WHEREAS, Tarrant County is an important national and international transportation crossroads at the geographic center of the hemisphere, featuring the intersection of major highway and rail corridors and such outstanding air transportation facilities as Alliance Airport, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, and Meacham International Airport; and

WHEREAS, The county owes much of its economic stability and diversity to the leadership provided by the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce; the coalition represents more than 10,000 business organizations; and

WHEREAS, The coalition brings together 25 chambers of commerce from throughout Tarrant County to support public policy initiatives that meet the needs of employees, employees, and all county citizens; and

WHEREAS, Noted for its many contributions to the overall quality of life in Tarrant County, the coalition builds productive partnerships between the business community and local, state, and federal governments to provide for positive growth in business and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce and the residents of Tarrant County deserve credit for maintaining the county's vitality and quality of life and for preserving its many amenities in the face of urban growth and industrial development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the people of Tarrant County on their achievements and their contributions to our state and extend best wishes to them for a joyous Tarrant County Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the residents of Tarrant County and the Coalition of Tarrant County Chambers of Commerce as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

HARRIS
BRIMER
NELSON

SR 128 was read and was adopted without objection.

### 18th Day

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Harris, joined by Senators Brimer and Nelson, was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens from Tarrant County.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 86**

Senator West offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome the members of Leadership Southwest to the Capitol today and to recognize February 16 as Leadership Southwest Day at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Joining the Leadership Southwest class of 2005 in the Capitol today are members of the class of 2004 and of classes of previous years, as well as members of the Best Southwest Partnership Board; and

WHEREAS, Participants in Leadership Southwest are concerned citizens who live or work in Southwest Dallas County and who have made a commitment to become better informed about vital issues in the community with the anticipation of future service; and

WHEREAS, Leadership Southwest is a nonprofit organization sponsored by chambers of commerce in Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster, and Oak Cliff and is supported by many community and business leaders who share a common goal of growth and development in the Southwest Dallas County community; and

WHEREAS, Since Leadership Southwest was founded in 1984, over 650 participants have graduated from the program, many of whom have gone on to become business and community leaders who serve on boards and commissions and contribute to the betterment of Southwest Dallas County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend all those involved with Leadership Southwest for their dedication and their commitment to their community and extend to them best wishes for an enjoyable Leadership Southwest Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

SR 86 was read and was adopted without objection.

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator West was recognized and introduced to the Senate J. R. Powell, Powell Chevrolet; Manuel Flores, Manager, Community and Customer Relations, TXU Electric Delivery; Cassondra Andrews, Senior Marketing Representative, ICC Energy Corporation; Bonnie Romero Espree, Immediate Past Chair, Leadership Southwest; and Amy Ernest, owner of Dallas Pet Crematory; accompanied by representatives of Leadership Southwest.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 154**

Senator Staples offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Texas Heritage Trails Program is a regional tourism initiative of the Texas Historical Commission that revitalizes local economies, increases visits to cultural and historic sites, and raises awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the tourism industry, and today, many proud partners of this exemplary undertaking are in Austin to celebrate the rich history of Texas and the many contributions of this program to the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Under the Texas Heritage Trails Program, the Texas Historical Commission is currently providing technical, educational, and financial assistance to 215 counties; moreover, the commission is partnering with other state agencies, city governments, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus, museums, historic sites, historical societies, state and national parks, and national forests; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Heritage Trails Program supports the efforts of communities seeking to assist travelers who wish to connect with their heritage and share it with their children; and

WHEREAS, Most of the state's cities and rural communities have historic sites of interest to visitors; with the Texas travel and tourism industry predicted to grow by 30 percent during the next decade, heritage tourism is poised to provide a significant infusion for the economy while helping to educate a new generation about what it means to be a Texan and an American; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who visit historic sites and communities make a particularly strong contribution to the economic vitality of Texas; they spend an average of \$29 per day more than non-heritage travelers and inject approximately \$1.43 billion into the state's economy annually, creating more than 32,000 jobs for Texans every year; and

WHEREAS, Considered one of the premier heritage tourism endeavors in the country, the Texas Heritage Trails Program owes its success to the dedication of individuals serving on boards of directors, on committees, and as friends of the program, and their contributions to the state are truly deserving of special legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 79th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 16, 2005, as Texas Heritage Trails Day at the State Capitol and join with the friends of the Texas Heritage Trails Program in paying tribute to this vital enterprise; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared for the regional offices of the Texas Heritage Trails Program as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

SR 154 was read and was adopted without objection.

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Staples was recognized and introduced to the Senate representatives of the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

# PHYSICIAN OF THE DAY

Senator Nelson was recognized and presented Dr. David C. Haefeli of Keller as the Physician of the Day.

The Senate welcomed Dr. Haefeli and thanked him for his participation in the Physician of the Day program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 146**

Senator Ogden offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, On the occasion of Texas' Heritage Day at the Capitol, the Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Milam County in celebrating the creation of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act; and

WHEREAS, On October 18, 2004, President George W. Bush signed legislation sponsored by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison designating El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail; this designation is a means of protecting the trail and heightening public awareness of its place in Texas history; and

WHEREAS, The Spanish people first traveled through Milam County over 300 years ago; their goal was to establish missions to convert American Indians to Christianity and to keep the French from establishing a presence; and

WHEREAS, Their first route across Texas was an ancient Indian trail that became known as El Camino Real de los Tejas, or Upper Road; the trail was in use from 1691 until 1800 when attacks by Indians required establishing another route further south, known today as the Old San Antonio Road; and

WHEREAS, As a follow-up to the recent National Historic Trail legislation for El Camino Real de los Tejas, Milam County is organizing and hosting two events in April; a tourism workshop will be held on April 22 in Rockdale, and a historical symposium will be held the following day in Cameron; the two events will provide opportunities for state agencies and other interested parties to share knowledge about the historic trail and plan for the impact of future tourism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend citizens of Milam County for their efforts to promote and educate people about the El Camino Real de los Tejas and join them in celebrating its designation as a National Historic Trail; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Milam County as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

SR 146 was read and was adopted without objection.

## **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Ogden was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens from Milam County.

# SESSION TO CONSIDER EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Presiding Officer, Senator Shapiro in Chair, announced the time had arrived to consider executive appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions. Notice of submission of these names for consideration was given yesterday by Senator Lindsay.

Senator Lindsay moved confirmation of the nominees reported yesterday by the Committee on Nominations.

The Presiding Officer asked if there were requests to sever nominees.

There were no requests offered.

# NOMINEES CONFIRMED

The following nominees, as reported by the Committee on Nominations, were confirmed by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Carona, Janek, Williams.

Members, Texas Racing Commission: Gerald Kent Carter, Burleson County; Charles Lee Sowell III, Harris County; Louis Edward Sturns, Tarrant County.

Member, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission: William A. "Bill" Ledbetter, Jr., Tarrant County.

Judge, 57th Judicial District Court, Bexar County: Joe Frazier Brown, Jr., Bexar County.

Judge, 417th Judicial District Court, Collin County: Cynthia McCrann "Cyndi" Wheless, Collin County.

Members, Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors: Diane Johnson Boddy, Clay County; James Castro, Bexar County; Alma Gloria Leal, Cameron County; J. Helen Perkins, Ed.D., Dallas County.

Presiding Officer, Texas Historical Commission: John Liston Nau III, Harris County.

Members, Texas Historical Commission: Thomas E. Alexander, Gillespie County; Bob Bowman, Angelina County; Albert F. "Boo" Hausser, Bexar County.

Members, Texas Military Facilities Commission: Regino J. "Reggie" Gonzales, Harris County; Larry W. Jackson, Bell County; Chao-Chiung Lee, Harris County.

Members, Texas Optometry Board: David Dixon Golden, Shelby County; Randall N. Reichle, O.D., Harris County; Elsa Silva, El Paso County.

Members, Private Sector Prison Industries Oversight Authority: Lillian Barajas, El Paso County; S. Roxanne Carter, Randall County.

Member, State Cemetery Committee: James Coley Cowden, Travis County.

Members, Telecommunications Planning and Oversight Council: Jennifer Nash Anderson, Dallas County; Robert "Bob" Frost, Tarrant County; Johanne M. Ibsen-Wolford, Travis County; Tim Shen, Harris County.

Members, Texas Veterans Commission: John A. Brieden III, Washington County; Karen Summerfield Rankin, Bexar County.

Member, Veterans' Land Board: Cephus S. Rhodes, El Paso County.

Members, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners: Bud E. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M., Nolan County; Paul Martinez, Sutton County.

## **RESOLUTION SIGNED**

The Presiding Officer announced the signing of the following enrolled resolution in the presence of the Senate: **HCR 64**.

### **SENATE RESOLUTION 120**

Senator Fraser offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the citizens of Comanche County and to proclaim February 16, 2005, Comanche County Day at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Created in 1856 from Bosque and Coryell Counties, Comanche County was named for the Comanche Indians who once dominated the Southwest Plains; and

WHEREAS, Ideally situated in the hills of Central Texas, Comanche County enjoys scenic vistas and fertile soil, and the county takes great pride in its many historical treasures and beautiful Lake Proctor; and

WHEREAS, Comanche is a Texas Main Street City and home to the Comanche County PowWow and "Old Cora," a split-log, one-room cabin that is the oldest standing courthouse in Texas; every year, De Leon celebrates the De Leon Peach and Melon Festival; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Comanche County enjoy a vibrant local economy, based primarily on agriculture; tourism and hunting add to the strong economic base; and

WHEREAS, Replete with friendly, hardworking citizens, Comanche County and its communities have much to be proud of; the county has played an important role in the history of Texas and will continue to do so in the years to come; boasting civic-minded residents and a healthy economy, Comanche County is truly an asset to our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby declare February 16, 2005, Comanche County Day at the Capitol and join residents in their celebration of this occasion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Comanche County as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

SR 120 was read and was adopted without objection.

# **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Fraser was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens from Comanche County.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

## **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Ogden was recognized and introduced to the Senate representatives of The Texas A&M University System Chancellor's Student Advisory Board.

## **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Nelson was recognized and introduced to the Senate a group of students from Lake Country Christian School.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

## **SENATE RESOLUTION 142**

Senator Zaffirini offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize for the fourth year the outstanding contributions of the Texas Exes to their alma mater and to render a Texas-size welcome to the Mexican students enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1885, the Texas Exes alumni organization of The University of Texas connects graduates to their alma mater and to each other through a multiplicity of programs, including scholarships, teaching awards and career services; and

WHEREAS, Students from our nearest neighbor, Mexico, have studied at The University of Texas at Austin since 1940; the university and Mexico have historic ties due to shared academic endeavors; the Graduate School of Business has developed joint degree programs with Mexican institutions, and Mexico is the leading country of choice for the university students who study abroad; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, our state's 72nd Legislature established a tuition assistance program to encourage students from Mexico with limited financial resources to study in our state, thus making Texas a responsive educational partner to Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The generosity of the Texas Exes and their active participation in the university's community attest to their commitment to their alma mater, and the school's distinguished record of educating Mexican students is indicative of the successful collaboration between Texas and Mexico; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the Texas Exes and the Mexican students at The University of Texas at Austin for their special and unique contributions to the school and to our state; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

SR 142 was read and was adopted without objection.

## **RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

## **Memorial Resolution**

SR 153 by Barrientos, In memory of D. J. Sibley, Jr.

#### **Congratulatory Resolutions**

**SR 147** by Lucio, Extending best wishes for the future to the residents and governmental officials of the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

**SR 148** by Barrientos, Congratulating Brenda Kaye Gullikson Piña on the occasion of her retirement.

**SR 151** by Barrientos, Congratulating Justine Mary Martone on the occasion of her retirement.

**SR 152** by Barrientos, Congratulating Carolyn N. Hamilton on the occasion of her retirement.

**SR 158** by Barrientos, Commending William Britton Dawson of Austin for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 159** by Barrientos, Commending Kyle Matthew Hooks of Austin for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 160** by Barrientos, Commending Bradley Patrick O'Connell for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 161** by Barrientos, Commending Martin Chapman Bauer for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 162** by Barrientos, Commending David Robert Hays for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 163** by Barrientos, Commending Brian Scott Grundy for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 164** by Barrientos, Commending Adam Russell Zimmerman for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 165** by Barrientos, Commending Thomas Edward Luker for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 166** by Barrientos, Commending Matthew Whitten Kenny of Austin for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 167** by Barrientos, Commending Benjamin Thomas Ferguson for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 168** by Barrientos, Commending Jack David Thompson for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**SR 169** by Barrientos, Commending Andrew Robert Butler of Austin for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

# **Official Designation Resolution**

**HCR 58** (Harris), Recognizing February 15, 2005, as Tarrant County Day at the State Capitol.

# ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Senator Whitmire, the Senate at 11:47 a.m. adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.