

House Resolution 997

By: Representatives Coleman of the 144th, Harbin of the 118th, Greene of the 149th, Parrish of the 156th, Shaw of the 176th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the monument erected by the citizens of Texas to honor the memory of the
2 Georgia Battalion and honoring the history of friendship and joint sacrifice between the great
3 States of Texas and Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, learning of the distress of the Texas colonists and their yearning for freedom
5 from oppression, in 1835, 170 years ago, the State of Georgia sent forth a strong and
6 courageous battalion of volunteers to join in the fight for liberty already being waged within
7 the proud territory; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia was the only state to supply arms from her own state arsenal and sent
9 them along with these noble heroes as they gathered, 120 strong, from Macon, Milledgeville,
10 and Columbus, Georgia, under the steady command of Colonel William Ward; and

11 WHEREAS, marching toward Texas, they paused in Knoxville, Georgia, home of Miss
12 Johanna Troutman, to receive the radiant banner she had prepared of white silk with a
13 glorious blue lone star and bearing the mottoes "Texas and Liberty" and "Ubi Libertas
14 habitat, ibi nostra patria est," or "Where Liberty dwells, there is our country," which would
15 be raised in triumph above Goliad when Colonel James W. Fannin, Jr., received word of the
16 Texas Declaration of Independence; and

17 WHEREAS, continuing westward, they mustered volunteers from Alabama and Mississippi
18 and arrived at Velasco, Texas, on December 20, 1835, with a battalion of 220 men to present
19 their services to Colonel Fannin, himself a native Georgian, who was already serving the
20 cause of independence in Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Battalion fought side by side with their Texas comrades until,
22 caught in open country and surrounded by superior Mexican forces, Fannin's army voted to
23 surrender to General José Urrea and returned to Goliad as prisoners of war; and

1 WHEREAS, betraying the promise that the prisoners would eventually be repatriated,
2 General Santa Anna ordered the men executed, and, in March of 1836, when 385 men lost
3 their lives in the thick clouds of smoke at the Goliad Massacre, 83 of them were Georgia
4 Volunteers; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1855, the Georgia General Assembly sent to the State of Texas an account
6 totalling \$3,000.00 for the arms issued to Ward's men but then waived this debt in an 1857
7 resolution and expressed its favor for a plan to erect an appropriate memorial to the proud
8 legacy of the Georgia Battalion in lieu of payment; and

9 WHEREAS, today, 170 years after Georgia sent her brave sons to do battle for the
10 independence of Texas and 150 years after expressing its original call for remuneration,
11 Georgia echoes the sentiments of 1857 that the citizens of this state rejoice and take great
12 pride in the contributions of their ancestors to the cause of liberty and hail the freedom of the
13 Lone Star state as a true and enduring memorial to the sacrifice of those peerless men; and

14 WHEREAS, remembering the promise of their state, the citizens of Albany, Texas—sister city
15 to Albany, Georgia—have generously taken on the responsibility of building and maintaining
16 a great and lasting monument to the Georgia Battalion and, unveiling their grand tribute on
17 June 24, 1976, not only reflected their community pride and spirit but also, through their
18 many selfless contributions, honored the legacy of those proud Georgians and that of their
19 Texan ancestors alike who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure their freedom;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, it is highly fitting in the year 2005, exactly a century and a half after first
22 inquiries for restitution were made, that the State of Georgia offer official acknowledgment
23 of the memorial to the Georgia Battalion, built and cared for by the citizens of Albany,
24 Texas.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body join to remember the historic sacrifice of the Georgia Battalion and
27 duly recognize the memorial located in the honorable City of Albany, Texas, as a fitting and
28 truly moving monument to their legacy.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the citizens of the State of
31 Texas.