HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the first license plate issued by the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Introduced in 1917, state-issued license plates were originally made of sheet iron and featured embossed numbers painted white on a dark blue background, with the abbreviation "TEX" on the right-hand side; before that time, Texans were responsible for obtaining their own license plates, which could be either homemade or purchased from such places as saddle and blacksmith shops; and

WHEREAS, The state prison system began manufacturing license plates in 1935, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice estimates that by 2016, inmates had created some 650 million plates; in 1965, the Texas Highway Department, now known as the Texas Department of Transportation, started offering personalized vanity plates to the public for an additional fee; and

WHEREAS, As technology advanced through the decades, so did the manufacture of Texas license plates; TxDOT began producing digitally printed, vinyl-covered aluminum plates in 2009, and three years later, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles unveiled the current general-issue plate, which utilizes black type on a white background and holographic security features; the Texas DMV now offers 420 plate designs in addition to the general scheme, including many that honor military veterans; and

WHEREAS, Over the past century, as the automobile industry has evolved to become a vital sector of the U.S. economy and a dominant influence on both American society and the national landscape, vehicle license plates have themselves become a ubiquitous, critical element of American life; their sale generates revenue for a variety of state programs, and their role as identifying markers provides essential aid to law enforcement officers in the performance of their work; incidental to their primary function, the plates have achieved a hold on the popular consciousness, becoming collector's items, a means of personal expression, and even a decorative feature, notably in countless roadside diners; and

WHEREAS, A humble, unobtrusive object, the license plate serves a number of purposes, from the essential to the whimsical, and it is indeed fitting that this milestone anniversary be recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commemorate the centennial of the first state-issued license plate in the Lone Star State.
H.C.R. No. 124

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 124 was adopted by the House on April 27, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 124 was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2017, by a viva voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:

Governor

Joe C. Pickett
State Representative
District 79