

Exhibit 178

in the case of:

**People of the Republic of Texas
and the
Sovereign Nation of the Republic of Texas**

v.

**UNITED NATIONS
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)
and
UNITED STATES
(and all it's Political Subdivisions)**

Under Pains and Penalties of perjury and the laws of the Almighty, and being sworn under a vow and oath, I attest that the attached pages are true and correct reprints of the:

Congressional Record: Texas Independence Day Remembrance - March 3, 1997, from: Thomas, Legislative Information on the Internet, a service of the U.S. Congress through its library.

This attestation is made on August 12, 1998.

Attest: Joelyn Savage

 D. A. West
Witness to scan and above signature

 Merle Ann West
Witness to above signatures

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TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY REMEMBRANCE (Senate - March 03, 1997)

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Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, 161 years ago yesterday, 54 delegates of the Convention of 1836 signed the **Texas** declaration of independence at the village of Washington-on-the-Brazos, which is near Houston, TX. Each of the settlements of **Texas** were represented. **Texas** was, at the time, a territory of Mexico. The delegates hurriedly wrote and adopted the declaration of independence, prepared a constitution for the newly formed Republic of **Texas** and organized an interim government.

Mr. President, my great-great-grandfather was one of the signers of the **Texas** Declaration of Independence. His law partner, Thomas Jefferson Rusk, was also one of the heroes of **Texas'** quest for independence. Thomas Rusk also went on to serve as a Senator from **Texas** , and was the first Senator to hold my Senate seat.

So I have grown up knowing much about **Texas** history since its days as a territory of Mexico. In fact, my great-great-grandfather was the 'alcalde,' which was the mayor of the territory for the country of Mexico. Then, he, Thomas Rusk and Sam Houston, all hailing from Nacogdoches, TX, where my mother grew up, were leaders in the effort to wrest their independence from Mexico and for **Texas** to be able to set up its own government.

I am proud, Mr. President, that **Texas** is the only State in America that was once an independent nation and, in fact, we were a republic for 9 years before becoming a State. So we like to recall the history of our independence, just as we do our history of American independence, every year. Yesterday in **Texas** we celebrated our **Texas** Independence Day.

We commemorate the time that we became a nation, and we remember the brave and wonderful people, not only those who signed the declaration of independence that day, but those who were at the same time girding for war at the Alamo several hundred miles away. Former **Texas** Senator John Tower began a tradition among **Texas** Senators. Senator Tower would read William Barret Travis' letter from the Alamo. As I alluded to a moment ago, as they were declaring independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1836, 6,000 Mexican troops were marching to the Alamo. They were marching to the Alamo to take on soldiers who had come from many States--Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and so on--to help defend **Texas** in its stand against the Mexican Army at the Alamo.

The declaration of independence said:

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... We, therefore . . . do hereby resolve and declare that our political connection with the Mexican Nation has forever ended, and that the people of **Texas** do now constitute a free, sovereign and independent republic . . .

Several days earlier, William Barret Travis had written from the Alamo his famous letter to the people of **Texas** and to all Americans. He knew that the Mexican Army was coming, and he knew that they had few people to help them defend the Alamo. Here is the letter by Colonel Travis:

Fellow citizens and compatriots: I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna--I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man--the enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken--I have answered the demands with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the wall--I

shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, or patriotism and of everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch--The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country--Victory or Death.

William Barret Travis, Lt. Col.,
Commander.

P.S. The Lord is on our side--when the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn--we have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 heads of beeves.

Despite that declaration, Mr. President, we did not win independence from Mexico at the Alamo. In the battle of the Alamo, known as the '13 Days of Glory,' 184 brave men died fending off Santa Anna's huge army. But the Alamo was crucial. It gave time to Gen. Sam Houston, who was the commander in chief of our Armed Forces, to get more volunteers and to decide when to take on this vast Mexican Army again. And because those brave men at the Alamo held out for so long, Houston had time to muster his forces. Gen. Sam Houston was wounded in the battle, but was able to take the surrender of General Santa Anna. **Texas** won her freedom on April 21, 1836.

San Jacinto is near Houston, and home to the battle we commemorate as the 'Great Battle of Freedom.'

So, Mr. President, I like to recall this time because it is an important time in the history of America as well as in the history of **Texas** . Our independent nation lasted for 9 years; for 9 years we brought our State together to prepare it for admission into the United States of America.

In fact, the debate recorded in the **Congressional Record** on whether **Texas** would become a State was very interesting.

Texas would join the Union if several conditions were met. Those conditions were outlined in a treaty. In the treaty, **Texas** was able to keep certain rights when she joined the Union--rights to her tidelands, rights to her public lands, which is why much of our public land is State owned rather than federally owned. This is why we have some different issues in **Texas** . We were able to control the tidelands because that was part of the treaty. We also had the right to turn into five States if the State of **Texas**

decided to break away from the Union. Now, that causes a little concern here on Capitol Hill when they think of having the possibility of 10 Senators from **Texas** instead of 2. There are a few cold stares when that is brought up. But I must say that was all part of the treaty.

The treaty did not pass because supporters couldn't muster the two-thirds vote necessary to ratify it. So President John Tyler introduced a bill to annex **Texas** as a State. **Texas** became a State because of a bill, not a treaty. The interesting thing was that the bill passed by only one vote in each House of Congress. Any of those who think it might have been a mistake to annex **Texas** almost won a victory. We did have a long, hard-fought battle before we joined the Union. One of the annexation proposal's most vocal opponents at the time was President John Quincy Adams, who had returned to Congress by that time. He spoke every day on the floor against the annexation of **Texas**. The reason he was so far out on the limb against **Texas** is because he was afraid **Texas** would become another slave State. He did not want to disrupt the balance that existed in the United States of America at the time. Once we did become a State, I think we began a tradition of great contributions to the United States. And, of course, just recently we have become the second largest State in America--second to California, overtaking New York State.

So that is a little bit of **Texas** history, which I am always glad to recall on **Texas** Independence Day. I like to read the letter from William Barret Travis to remind you of the pride Texans share for their independence from Mexico and their membership today in the United States of America. We are proud that we were an independent nation for 9 years and then took our rightful place in the United States of America. I hope that people feel that we have earned the right to be proud of that, and also hope that people feel that **Texas** has done her part as a State.

We are proud of our heritage. We are proud of our history. And most of all, today, I want to pay tribute to the brave men who died at the Alamo and the brave men, numbering among them the first Senator to hold my Senate seat, the first Senator to hold the other **Texas** Senate seat, Gen. Sam Houston, and my own great-great-grandfather who signed the Declaration of Independence and later became the chief justice of Nacogdoches County.

These were brave men who forged a new nation at great cost. They went through many of the same things that our forebears in the United States of America did in wresting our independence from England. So I am proud of that. I am proud of the patriots who gave their lives for our freedom or who risked their lives for our freedom. I want to pay tribute to them today, and I will do so every year that I am able to serve as a Senator from the great State of **Texas**.

Mr. President, I thank you for your indulgence, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. **Johnson**], is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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