

## ***EDITORIAL***

### **Texas Independence Day**

**FRIDAY, February 24, 2006**

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TEXAS!**

The observance of holidays is an important thing in American life. We observe holidays nearly every month of the year. What's the number one holiday that comes to your mind—Christmas, New Year's, the Fourth of July? How about Texas Independence Day?

Texas has a unique history unlike any other state in the Union. First, Texas has been governed under six national flags—Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, Texas in the Confederacy, and U.S.A. Spain was the first European nation to claim what is now Texas beginning in 1519 through 1821. Between 1685 and 1690 Texas was governed under France while simultaneously governed under Spain. Because most of Texas had no Spanish presence in Texas, France took a daring step in 1685 and erected its flag in eastern Texas. Due to a series of disasters, France's claim to Texas vanished in 1690. Texas was then governed under Mexico when it became independent from Spain in 1821 through 1836.

On April 21, 1836 Texas won independence from Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto just 51 days after Texas boldly declared independence on March 2, 1836. We observe March 2<sup>nd</sup> as Texas Independence Day in honor of those 54 brave men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. For ten years after the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas enjoyed independence as a Republic.

In 1845 Texas joined the Union and became the 28<sup>th</sup> state of the United States. However, the American Civil War began in 1861; just sixteen years after Texas joined the Union, and flew the Confederate flag until 1865 when Texas rejoined the Union.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is a special day for Texans—it's our independence day! Be proud of Texas heritage and celebrate.

Pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag:

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible."