

By: Senator Hickey

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALONZO
JOHN WEMPLE, RAILROAD ENGINEER AND FIREMAN, AND
RECOGNIZING HIS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF
OUR COUNTRY.

Subtitle

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALONZO JOHN WEMPLE,
RAILROAD ENGINEER AND FIREMAN, AND
RECOGNIZING HIS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE
HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, the year 2013 marks the 84th anniversary of the death of
railroad engineer Alonzo John Wemple; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wemple was born in Schenectady, New York, on October 1,
1833; he spent his entire professional life as a railroad man, working
throughout the United States; during that time, he was present at many
significant historical events of the era; and

WHEREAS, while working as an engineer for the Illinois Central
Railroad during the Civil War, Mr. Wemple transported captured Confederate
soldiers to Union prison camps; and

WHEREAS, in 1865, Mr. Wemple joined the elite group of engineers who
piloted the funeral train of President Abraham Lincoln, which transported
Lincoln's body, with stops for viewing, from Washington, D.C., through
Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Chicago, and then on to



its final resting place in Springfield, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, a few years later, Mr. Wemple was running a switch engine in Illinois and witnessed the great Chicago fire that ravaged the city in 1871; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wemple then moved to Texas, and from 1886 to 1888, he piloted trains on the Texas and Pacific Railway that headed west from Texarkana; he went on to settle in Bonham, Texas, where he piloted switch engines for many years into the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 1929, Mr. Wemple died in Fort Worth, Texas, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, his first wife was Charlotte Pennington and together they had 6 children, Frances, Minnie, Frederick, Mary, Charles, and Charlotte; and after his wife's passing in 1892, Mr. Wemple married Pearly Lou Williams, and they were the proud parents of a son, Judie Newton Wemple; and

WHEREAS, the border cities of Texarkana, Arkansas, and Texarkana, Texas, will host the first annual Railfest on May 11, 2013, and will honor Mr. Wemple as a part of the festivities; and

WHEREAS, history is made not only by the deeds of the famous but also by the accumulated experience of countless individuals, and although Mr. Wemple played only a small part, he was a witness to some of the most important events of his time,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate wishes to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Alonzo John Wemple, railroad engineer and fireman, and to recognize his significant role in the history of our country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate

copy shall be provided to Mr. Dean Gibson, P.O. Box 906, Nash, Texas 75569, on behalf of Mayor Wayne Smith and the Texarkana Historical Society & Museum of Texarkana, Arkansas.