



State of Texas \*

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County of Comal \*

# Proclamation

## RECOGNIZING WALZEM CHAPEL TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MARKER AND DEDICATION

**WHEREAS**, the Walzem Chapel is located at 597 La Bahia Loop in the Mission Hills Ranch Subdivision off of Hwy 46, west of New Braunfels. It is owned and cared for by the Mission Hills Ranch Home Owners Association; and

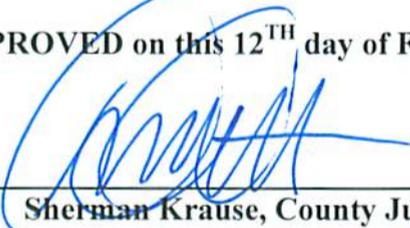
**WHEREAS**, the Walzem Chapel was built to serve Catholics in the Mission Valley Settlement, a once remote area. In the Mid-1800s, German immigrants came to Texas under the auspices of the Adelsverein in search of freedom and economic opportunity. Johann Joseph and Anna Gertruda Walzem settled in the Mission Valley Settlement in the 1850s and built a home that is still standing nearby. Mr. Walzem was a stone mason and has been credited with building several houses in the Mission Valley Settlement. Walzem and his family were important members of the community in the early days of New Braunfels' development. Johann and his sons built the chapel on an acre plot located in the north end of their original 160 acre tract. Legend has it that after working for several years, Mr. Walzem visited his homeland and upon returning to Texas, built the chapel in thanksgiving for a safe trip. A stone at the top of the entrance to the chapel is marked "1870", indicating the completion date. The walls were made of limestone locally quarried and cut by Johann and his sons and mortar from a local kiln. Although the stone walls of the chapel are all that remain, they serve as a reminder of the challenges and isolation of the early frontier; and

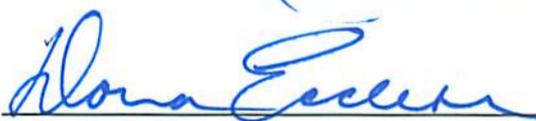
**WHEREAS**, the Walzem Chapel has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission Marker that is now displayed on the chapel grounds and subdivision park. The dedication of the marker will be held on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Walzem Chapel, 597 La Bahia Loop; and

**WHEREAS**, the marker was sponsored by the Mission Hills Ranch Home Owners Association. President of the Home Owners Association is Pete Johnson. Research for this marker was performed by Bill Wright with the help of local historian, Alton Rahe.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Comal County Commissioners Court duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend you on your work towards receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

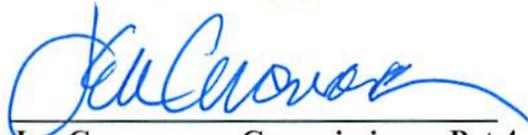
**PASSED AND APPROVED** on this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of February, 2015.

  
Sherman Krause, County Judge

  
Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct 1

  
Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct 2

  
Kevin Crowder, Commissioner Pct 3

  
Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct 4



  
Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk