



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 18, 2011

Contact: Derick Hackett
Communications Officer
(512) 463-5514
dhackett@tsl.state.tx.us

TSLAC SHOWCASES DECLARATION, TRAVIS LETTER TO BEGIN 175th TEXAS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Lorenzo de Zavala
State Archives and
Library Building

P.O. Box 12927
Austin, Texas
78711-2927

1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas
78701

www.tsl.state.tx.us

Commission Chairman
Sandra J. Pickett

Members
Sharon T. Carr
Martha Doty Freeman
Larry G. Holt
Wm. Scott McAfee
Sally Reynolds
Michael C. Waters

Director and Librarian
Peggy D. Rudd

Assistant State Librarian
Edward Seidenberg

*Making
information
work
for all
Texans*

AUSTIN – The Texas Declaration of Independence and the William B. Travis letter from the Alamo, two original icons of Texas history, are now on display for public viewing at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as part of the 175th anniversary celebration of Texas Independence.

These two historical documents and other artifacts on display, including Sam Houston's 1861 proclamation confirming Texas' secession from the United States, passports of significant Texans, letters, circulars, documents regarding Texans of African descent, a Texas cavalry battle flag and replicas of Alamo and San Jacinto battlefield maps drawn by Andrew Jackson Houston (the originals are too fragile for display), may be viewed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building. The building is located at 1201 Brazos St., across from the East entrance to the State Capitol.

"We are thrilled to showcase these precious Texas artifacts. Texans share a proud history, and as custodians of Texas history, the commission has a responsibility to safely make it available so citizens can appreciate and learn from it," says TSLAC Director and Librarian Peggy D. Rudd. "For the protection of the documents, accounting for their age and condition, we can display them for only short periods of time."

The declaration and Travis letter will be showcased through April 21 – San Jacinto Day, which celebrates the final battle fought during the 1836 Texas Revolution.

On March 2, Texas' actual Independence Day anniversary, TSLAC hosts historian and author H.W. Brands for a talk about Texas' fight for nationhood. He will speak at 11:30 a.m. at the de Zavala building. Brands, a two-time Pulitzer-Prize finalist and professor at the University of Texas-Austin, is author of "Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story of the Battle for Texas Independence." His appearance, part of the new TSLAC Speaker Series, is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested and may be made by e-mailing rsvp@tsl.state.tx.us or calling (512) 463-5460.

For information, interviews or alternate photos, contact Derick Hackett at (512) 463-5514 or dhackett@tsl.state.tx.us or Lynne Margolis at (512) 463-5462 or lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us.

**Photo caption: Detail of William B. Travis' 1836 letter from the Alamo
Credit: Texas State Library and Archives Commission**

For more information, visit www.tsl.state.tx.us.