



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TSLAC CELEBRATES 175TH TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH CAKE, TALK BY AUTHOR H.W. BRANDS

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AUSTIN – The Texas State Library and Archives Commission is celebrating the 175th anniversary of Texas’ independence with cake, a talk and book-signing by two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist H.W. Brands at 11:30 a.m. March 2, Texas Independence Day. Brands, the third guest in TSLAC’s new Speaker Series, will discuss Texas individualism, Texas nationalism and the role of democracy in securing the state’s independence.

His speech at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building at 1201 Brazos St. is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are requested and may be made by e-mailing rsvp@tsl.state.tx.us or calling (512) 463-5460. Copies of his book, *Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story of the Battle for Texas Independence*, will be available at the event. TSLAC also has the original Texas Declaration of Independence and William B. Travis letter from the Alamo on display in the Zavala building lobby in honor of the anniversary. They may be seen weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through April 21.

Historian and author Brands, who holds the University of Texas at Austin’s Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History chair, delivered the keynote address at the Zavala building’s rededication on Nov. 12, 2010. He has spent many hours within its nearly 50-year-old walls while researching Texas history for “Lone Star Nation” and other books, including one on President Lyndon B. Johnson. He became a Pulitzer finalist in 1999 for *What America Owes the World: The Struggle for the Soul of Foreign Policy*, and again in 2001 for *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*. They are among 24 books he’s authored, including two published in 2010: *American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865-1900* and *American Dreams: The United States Since 1945*.

“Bill Brands delivered such a dynamic, enthralling address at our rededication, we couldn’t wait to have him back for this special anniversary,” says Peggy D. Rudd, TSLAC director and state librarian. “He’s a master at putting Texas’ independence into perspective in an informative, entertaining way.”

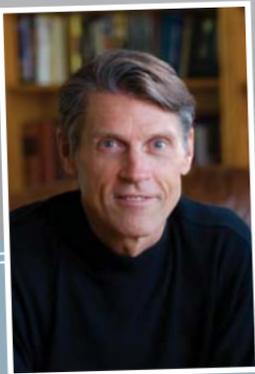
Born in Oregon, Brands has spent most of his career in Texas, starting with his years as an instructor at Austin Community College and doctoral student in history at UT Austin. He returned to UT to teach in 2005, after teaching for 16 years at Texas A&M University.

“The story of the Texas revolution is really gripping,” says Brands, adding, “Texas historians tend to look at Texans as a world apart. As a historian of the United States, I have an appreciation of Texas’ role in American history.”

This event is supported by the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas.

For more information: Contact Derick Hackett at (512) 463-5514, dhackett@tsl.state.tx.us or Lynne Margolis at (512) 463-5462, lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us.

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TSLAC Speaker Series author and historian H.W. Brands

Celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas' independence with two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist H.W. Brands, author of *Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story of the Battle for Texas Independence*. The University of Texas at Austin history professor will discuss Texas individualism, Texas nationalism and the role of democracy in securing Texas' independence.

TSLAC invites you to join Brands for an engaging conversation, followed by a book-signing. Books will be available at the event.

When: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2

Where: Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives
and Library Building, 1201 Brazos St., Austin

RSVP: rsvp@tsl.state.tx.us / (512) 463-5460

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas

Mark your calendars and watch our website for other events in this free series. www.tsl.state.tx.us/news/calendar.html

March 17: Quilt expert Marcia Kaylakie,
plus "Quilts in Women's Lives" documentary

May 23: Texas Reading Club kickoff
with state musician Sara Hickman