

The President's Address  
calling for Volunteers for the  
protection of the Frontier.

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*On my arrival  
from Dept*

Executive Department  
Houston February 28th 1839.

Fellow Citizens

I am forced, by the suffering conditions of our North Western frontier, to make an appeal to your valor and patriotism, which have never been appealed to in vain. The fierce and perfidious savages are waging upon our exposed and defenseless inhabitants, an unprovoked and cruel warfare, massacring the women and children, and threatening the whole line of our unprotected borders with speedy desolation. All that a brave and energetic people could achieve for their own safety has been nobly done. They have met their enemies with unflinching hearts, and have borne their trials and reverses with a fortitude equalled only by their heroism. But their population, thinned by repeated and continued losses, are now no longer able to sustain themselves

against the overwhelming numbers by which they are surrounded; and if immediate relief be not extended, they will be compelled to break up their settlements, and seek security in our more populous counties.

Under such circumstances, they call upon their less exposed fellow-citizens to fly to their assistance and protection. Shall the call be made in vain? Shall those who have never experienced calamity - who have participated in the prosperity of the country, without sharing its perils, look ingloriously on the sufferings of these hardy people, the most of them the early pioneers of Texas, and behold them cut up and destroyed in detail, without offering that generous succor and assistance which they have a right to expect, and which honor and valor will delight to give? Are you, citizen soldiers, willing to repose quietly at home while your countrymen and brethren are bleeding under the tomahawk, and their families are the unresisting victims of the scalping knife? Can you sleep upon your pillows, with the voice of lamentation in your ears? Are you insensible to noble deeds - dead to the love of fame, too fixed for ~~fortune~~, and too timid for danger? No. Such is not the character of Texans. The history of the past will not justify the thought. No draft has ever been dishonored which your

country or humanity has drawn upon your chivalry and virtue; and the promptness with which every appeal has heretofore been responded to, is an ample guarantee that the present one in behalf of a bleeding people, will not be neglected and despised. Your aid, however, to be effectual, must be ~~speedy~~ speedily received. The Government is doing all which its limited means can accomplish, for the permanent protection of its entire frontier; but time is necessary to perfect its plans; and time is bringing that destruction which it is our object to avert. The emergency is pressing. Delay is death. Then let the chivalry of Texas shew itself. Three hundred volunteers are wanted in the field immediately - men who are not only ready to fight, but who are willing to encounter toil, fatigue and privations, and whose energy and public devotions will supply the deficiencies resulting from the present condition of our public finances.

The requisitions are expected to be met by those counties which have no frontier of their own to protect. To carry out this plan of defence, it will be necessary for the County of Harrisburg to furnish two companies; the County of Brazoria, one; the Counties of Matagorda and Colorado, one; Austin and Fort Bend, one; and the Counties of Liberty and Galveston one. These men

will be expected to volunteer for six months; and as soon as organized, the Captain of each company will report by letter, and forward a muster-roll to the War Department. The first five companies, <sup>mentioned,</sup> will rendezvous at Sal Grange, in the County of Fayette, and report to Colonel Edward Burleson, as speedily as possible, who ~~will~~ is authorized to take command of the troops for the protection of that portion of the frontier. The sixth company will proceed with dispatch to the Falls of the Brazos, and occupy the fort constructed by the Milan Guards.

Mirabeau B. Lamar.

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