

By: Parker

H.C.R. No. 83

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has benefited enormously from  
2 the contributions of its Italian American residents; and

3 WHEREAS, During the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, the  
4 few Italians who came to Texas were mainly explorers, adventurers,  
5 or missionaries; Italians began to play a larger role toward the end  
6 of the 19th century, when Piedmontese made their homes in Montague  
7 County and Sicilians settled in the lower Brazos valley and on the  
8 Galveston County mainland; Modenese, Venetians, and Piedmontese  
9 worked the coal mines at Thurber, and Italian financier Joseph  
10 Telfener brought some 1,200 Lombards to help construct the New  
11 York, Texas and Mexican Railway between Victoria and Rosenberg; and

12 WHEREAS, Most of the railway builders and coal miners moved  
13 back to Italy or on to other places when their work was completed;  
14 however, the Italian American community in the Brazos valley fanned  
15 out into surrounding areas, and settlements in Houston, Galveston,  
16 and San Antonio expanded rapidly; new residents founded churches,  
17 newspapers, and benevolent-fraternal organizations, as well as  
18 businesses; prominent Italian Americans of the 20th century include  
19 bootmaker Sam Lucchese, sculptor Pompeo Coppini, rancher Antonio  
20 Mateo Bruni, and agriculturalist-developer Biagio Varisco; the  
21 towns of Bruni and Varisco and such names as Bruni Park, Varisco  
22 Airport, Liggio Street, and Laneri Avenue are a testament to the  
23 achievements of Italian Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, Through the years, individuals of Italian descent

1 have excelled in all sectors of our society and economy, enriching  
2 our cultural tapestry, enhancing our prosperity, and securing the  
3 Lone Star State's reputation as a land of promise and possibility;  
4 most recently, Italian Americans have made prominent contributions  
5 throughout the state in such areas as aerospace, energy,  
6 technology, science, research, and arts and culture, in addition to  
7 construction and economic development projects; June 2 represents  
8 an ideal date on which to honor all of those accomplishments, as  
9 Italians around the world celebrate this day as Festa della  
10 Repubblica to commemorate the 1946 referendum that ended the  
11 monarchy in Italy and established a republic and to commemorate  
12 over 160 years since the unification of Italy; now, therefore, be it

13         RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby designate June 2 as Italian Heritage Day; and, be it further

15         RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
16 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
17 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
18 passed by the legislature.