

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 290

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum in
2 Pittsburg is rendering exceptional public service through its
3 programs to preserve and interpret the natural, historical, and
4 artistic heritage of the region; and

5 WHEREAS, Established in 1991 by the Pittsburg/Camp County
6 Museum Association, the museum is housed in the city's former
7 Cotton Belt Railroad depot; the transformation from depot to museum
8 has been so successfully accomplished that the complex has been
9 named one of five state finalists for the Texas Downtown
10 Association's Best Adaptive Reuse Award; and

11 WHEREAS, On view at the museum are exhibits chronicling the
12 first 10,000 years of settlement in Northeast Texas, a railroad
13 exhibit with a working, restored telegraph station, and displays
14 highlighting famous individuals; exhibits related to the region's
15 economy include extensive treatment of the area's farming,
16 ranching, timber industry, and poultry production; in addition, the
17 museum's Farmstead offers visitors an opportunity to explore the
18 100-year-old house, barn, and smokehouse from Charlie Hoffman's
19 Camp County farm and observe demonstrations that evoke the life and
20 work of our rural ancestors; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2002 the museum unveiled its most unusual
22 exhibit, a replica of the Reverend Burrell Cannon's Ezekiel
23 Airship; the original craft, inspired by a biblical account of
24 flying creatures, was built by Reverend Cannon in Pittsburg and was

1 flown in the community in 1902, 18 months before the Wright brothers
2 made their first flight at Kitty Hawk; recent accounts of Reverend
3 Burrell's pioneering effort have appeared on CNN, on Paul Harvey's
4 radio program, and in *Texas Monthly*; and

5 WHEREAS, Through the exceptional vision and dedication of
6 Michelle Stegman, the museum's director, and all the citizens who
7 have made this institution possible, the Northeast Texas Rural
8 Heritage Museum is playing a vital role in conserving the history
9 and culture of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the Northeast Texas
12 Rural Heritage Museum for its outstanding contributions to
13 preserving the rich and colorful story of Texas and extend to all
14 those associated with the museum sincere best wishes for continued
15 success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum as an
18 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.