

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 70

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance (STAR)  
2 Day bill--Senate Bill 1656--was passed by the 76th Texas  
3 Legislature and signed into law by Governor George W. Bush on June  
4 18, 1999; this bill states that all Texas public schools and other  
5 organizations shall celebrate the birthday of the State of Texas on  
6 February 19 each year with appropriate and patriotic programs to  
7 inspire a greater appreciation for the history of our state; and

8           WHEREAS, The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day  
9 Foundation was organized in 1998 and chartered in 1999 as a Texas  
10 not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation to help carry out  
11 the legislative intent of the STAR Day bill by planning,  
12 developing, and conducting appropriate and patriotic programs  
13 during the year, in partnership with all Texas public schools and  
14 other organizations; and

15           WHEREAS, On September 26, 2002, Governor Rick Perry issued  
16 Executive Order RP-19, in which the governor noted that donating  
17 blood provides a lifesaving service to patients suffering from  
18 cancer or burns or undergoing transplant or other surgery; the  
19 order encouraged each state agency in Texas to allow its employees  
20 to take one hour of compensatory or vacation time to donate blood to  
21 address the current shortage; and

22           WHEREAS, On May 29, 2003, Governor Perry signed House Bill  
23 89, which established a Texas Employee Donor Leave of Absence  
24 (TEDLOA) policy for certain employees of Texas agencies, providing

1 paid leave of absence to donate blood, bone marrow, and organs; the  
2 Legislative Budget Board reported that no significant fiscal  
3 implication for the state is anticipated as a consequence of the  
4 adoption of House Bill 89; and

5 WHEREAS, The Great Texas Blood Donor Roundup Campaign was  
6 organized and established by The STAR Day Foundation on February  
7 19, 2002, as an appropriate and patriotic annual statewide program  
8 to celebrate the birthday of the State of Texas; the mission of the  
9 Roundup campaign is to educate, inspire, and motivate students to  
10 become our future blood donors and to help overcome the serious,  
11 growing shortage of blood supplies in Texas by partnering with all  
12 Texas public schools and other organizations in planning,  
13 developing, and conducting Roundup blood-drive events; it is the  
14 aim of The STAR Day Foundation to provide an opportunity for all  
15 eligible Texans 17 years of age or older to attend a Roundup event  
16 and donate a pint of blood for the first time, or to donate an  
17 additional pint of blood each year as his or her personal STAR Day  
18 birthday present for our state; and

19 WHEREAS, The STAR Day Foundation has organized and  
20 established The Great Texas Blood Donor Roundup League to support  
21 the mission of the Roundup blood drive; league members pledge to  
22 plan, develop, and conduct at least one Roundup event each year as  
23 their annual STAR Day birthday present for our state, in  
24 partnership with one or more Texas junior high or middle schools;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, United States Congressman Nick Lampson of Beaumont  
27 has volunteered, at the request of The STAR Day Foundation, to

1 introduce a blood-donor leave bill to amend the Federal Employee  
2 Donor Leave of Absence policy, which currently only grants leave of  
3 absence, without loss of time or pay, to federal employees who wish  
4 to donate bone marrow and organs; Congressman Lampson's measure  
5 would allow federal employees to take sufficient time off during  
6 the workday--up to one day's leave--to donate blood up to four times  
7 a year, thus providing federal employees encouragement and support  
8 to donate blood; and

9 WHEREAS, The Galveston County Commissioners Court, Loving  
10 County Commissioners Court, Wink City Council, and several Texas  
11 small businesses have joined the TEDLOA Policy Project, sponsored  
12 by The STAR Day Foundation; by adopting a TEDLOA policy, these  
13 businesses and government bodies are encouraging and supporting  
14 their respective employees to take sufficient time off during the  
15 workday to donate blood; each entity adopting the policy has  
16 reported to The STAR Day Foundation that it anticipates no  
17 significant fiscal implication for itself as a result of adopting a  
18 TEDLOA policy; and

19 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker of  
20 the House Tom Craddick hosted The Second Annual Great Texas Blood  
21 Donor Roundup at the State Capitol during February 17-19, 2004, in  
22 partnership with Texas junior high and middle schools, to provide  
23 an opportunity for State of Texas employees in the Capitol Complex  
24 area and members of the Texas Legislature and their staffs to  
25 volunteer and donate blood in support of the Roundup campaign and as  
26 their annual STAR Day birthday present for our state; and

27 WHEREAS, El Paso County Judge Dolores Briones hosted The

1 Second Annual Great Texas Blood Donor Roundup at the El Paso County  
2 Courthouse on March 30, 2004, in partnership with Eastwood Middle  
3 School of the Ysleta Independent School District (ISD), to provide  
4 an opportunity for El Paso County employees to volunteer and donate  
5 blood in support of the Roundup campaign and as their annual STAR  
6 Day birthday present for our state; and

7 WHEREAS, Major General Michael A. Vane, commanding general of  
8 Fort Bliss, hosted The Second Annual Great Texas Blood Donor  
9 Roundup at Fort Bliss during April 12-16, 2004, in partnership with  
10 El Paso ISD Henderson Middle School students, who visited Fort  
11 Bliss on April 15, 2004, to encourage and challenge soldiers to  
12 donate blood for soldiers in need; the event was sponsored by the  
13 Fort Bliss Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Program  
14 under the leadership of BOSS Program president Sergeant Angel  
15 Clark, the Armed Services Blood Program Blood Collection Team at  
16 Fort Bliss under the leadership of Captain Yvonne Beale, and  
17 Dealers' Financial Services, LLC, under the leadership of area  
18 manager Greg A. Funk; and

19 WHEREAS, Loving County Judge Donald C. Creager, City of Wink  
20 Mayor Betty Lou Dodd, and Wink-Loving ISD Board of Trustees  
21 president Devora Mitchell cohosted the inaugural Wink-Loving ISD  
22 School Roundup event on January 14, 2004, to provide an opportunity  
23 for students to invite and escort their parents, older brothers and  
24 sisters, grandparents, and other relatives, as well as school  
25 teachers, school administrators, school staff, school board  
26 members, and community friends to donate a pint of blood at their  
27 school Roundup event; each student had the unique educational

1 opportunity to stand by the bedside of their adult school Roundup  
2 partner to observe the complete blood collection process step by  
3 step and ask questions of the blood collection team members about  
4 blood science and related matters; and

5 WHEREAS, The STAR Day Foundation organized the inaugural  
6 Great Texas Blood Donor Roundup University Challenge event, the  
7 largest blood drive in the State of Texas to date, in partnership  
8 with The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M  
9 University--College Station; sponsored by chapters of Alpha Phi  
10 Omega at each institution, the event supported the Roundup campaign  
11 by providing an opportunity for the nearly 100,000 students at both  
12 institutions, together with all the university administrators,  
13 employees, faculty, and area alumni, to donate a pint of blood as  
14 their STAR Day birthday present for our state; The University of  
15 Texas conducted its event from March 29, 2004, through April 2,  
16 2004, and Texas A&M University conducted its event during April  
17 12-16, 2004; the institution that rounded up the most pints of blood  
18 during its respective one-week event is receiving the James  
19 Pinckney Henderson Service Award, which was established by The STAR  
20 Day Foundation to commemorate the public service of James Pinckney  
21 Henderson, the first governor of the State of Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, On June 22, 2003, Governor Perry signed a bill  
23 originally introduced as House Bill 926 by State Representative  
24 Craig Eiland, at the request of students at R. D. McAdams Junior  
25 High School of the Dickinson ISD in Galveston County, who were  
26 participating in the after-school Great Texas Readers Are Leaders  
27 Program, sponsored by The STAR Day Foundation; the bill authorizes

1 the Texas Department of Transportation to issue for sale The STAR  
2 Day Library Readers Are Leaders license plate for an annual fee of  
3 \$30, with \$22 from each sale benefiting The STAR Day Foundation and  
4 supporting the purchase and distribution of one Pioneers and  
5 Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas book to a partnering Texas  
6 junior high or middle school; for each pint of blood donated at a  
7 Roundup event with the help of a student, a book shall be donated to  
8 support the after-school program that provides students with the  
9 opportunity to make achievements in reading and service as their  
10 annual student STAR Day birthday present for our state; and

11 WHEREAS, On July 30, 2003, Galveston County Judge James D.  
12 Yarbrough was the first person in our state to join The Great Texas  
13 Business Card Roundup Program, sponsored by The STAR Day  
14 Foundation; his professional business card shall be digitally  
15 recorded on a bookplate affixed to the inside left-hand cover of a  
16 PALS of Texas book in support of The Great Texas Readers Are Leaders  
17 Program, and 24 students at Weis Middle School in Galveston ISD  
18 shall volunteer to read and sign the book's signature page, which  
19 shall be returned to Judge Yarbrough by the students in honor of his  
20 cohosting, with Galveston ISD Board of Trustees president John W.  
21 Ford, the successful Weis Middle School Roundup event on March 5,  
22 2004; student members of the Weis Middle School Student Council  
23 planned, developed, and conducted the event under the leadership of  
24 Lisa Schweitzer and Pam Goode, student council cosponsors; and

25 WHEREAS, The Second Annual Spirit of STAR Day Celebration at  
26 the State Capitol was sponsored by The STAR Day Foundation and  
27 hosted by State Representative Bob Hunter on February 19, 2004, in

1 the Capitol Rotunda, with programs presented by Austin's Fulmore  
2 Middle School Band and Travis High School Choir; during this  
3 celebration, The STAR Day Foundation announced a statewide effort  
4 to plan, develop, and conduct the largest simultaneous Roundup  
5 blood-drive event in our state's history on STAR Day, Saturday,  
6 February 19, 2005, in partnership with all 254 Texas county  
7 commissioners courts and the 1,203 incorporated Texas cities; each  
8 partnering city mayor and his or her respective county judge shall  
9 organize a City Roundup Committee to plan, develop, and conduct one  
10 or more city Roundup events at designated junior high or middle  
11 schools, with the goal of inspiring and motivating all sixth-,  
12 seventh-, and eighth-grade students in their respective cities to  
13 invite and escort an adult to the closest designated school on  
14 Saturday, February 19, 2005, to donate a pint of blood as a STAR Day  
15 birthday present for our state; now, therefore, be it

16         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby recognize February 19,  
18 2005, as The Great Texas Blood Donor Roundup Day and encourage all  
19 Texans 17 years of age or older to donate blood for the first time or  
20 donate an additional pint of blood to help overcome the serious and  
21 growing Texas blood-supply shortage.