

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 194**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Big Spring Refinery on the occasion of its 75th anniversary celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, The business was started in 1929 when Josh Cosden constructed a crude oil refinery on the outskirts of Big Spring, and it has continued operating for 75 years; over the years, the refinery's trademark has changed from Cosden in 1929 to 1984, to Fina in 1984 to 2000, to ALON USA since 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, With 142 current employees, retirees, and many local contractors, the refinery has a dynamic impact on the lives of numerous citizens in the Big Spring community; it is the largest taxpayer to the county and the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, The Big Spring Refinery is the last surviving refinery in the Central Permian Basin and counts among its achievements being the first refinery worldwide to extract pure aromatic compounds from crude oil; and

**WHEREAS**, ALON employees and retirees and citizens in the community began planning for the 75th anniversary celebration in 2003, and activities are ongoing; a permanent exhibit was prepared and is now on display at the Heritage Museum; and

**WHEREAS**, Representatives of the refinery and teachers from the Big Spring Independent School District developed a course of study about the petroleum industry where students learned about the scientific principles of oil production, the refinery's

environmental and economic impact in the community, and its technological innovations; and

**WHEREAS**, For 75 years, the Big Spring Refinery, ALON USA, has played a major role in the progress of Big Spring and the surrounding area and has been an outstanding corporate citizen in the Big Spring community and across the state; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby commend employees of the Big Spring Refinery, ALON USA, for their many contributions to the Big Spring community and extend best wishes to all for a joyful 75th anniversary celebration; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2004.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate