

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 309

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On February 25, 2003, many proud residents of  
2 Kilgore are gathering in Austin to celebrate Kilgore Day at the  
3 State Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, Established in 1872 when the International-Great  
5 Northern Railroad built a line between Longview and Palestine,  
6 Kilgore was named for Constantine Buckley Kilgore, who was a  
7 delegate at the Constitutional Convention of 1875 and served as a  
8 state senator and U.S. congressman from the area; and

9           WHEREAS, In its infancy, the city relied on its cotton crops  
10 to spur its economy; Kilgore underwent a dramatic transformation in  
11 1930 with the discovery of the East Texas oilfield, which helped to  
12 spark a boom that would see more than 1,100 oil-producing wells  
13 spring up in the city; one block of downtown Kilgore had the  
14 greatest concentration of derricks in the world and came to be known  
15 as the "World's Richest Acre"; and

16           WHEREAS, Situated in south central Gregg County, Kilgore is  
17 today a town of 12,000 residents and has a multifaceted economy that  
18 revolves around petroleum, manufacturing, government, mining,  
19 tourism, and various other business enterprises; and

20           WHEREAS, Throughout the year in Kilgore, residents and  
21 visitors are treated to fun and enriching experiences at the Texas  
22 Shakespeare Festival at Kilgore College, Derrick Fest, and the KTPB  
23 Fine Arts Festival, which concludes with Kids Fest; at the year's  
24 end, the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce hosts the spectacular Holiday

1 Trail of Lights; and

2 WHEREAS, Kilgore also features such diverse attractions as  
3 the East Texas Oil Museum, the World's Richest Acre Park, and  
4 Kilgore College; the home of the Kilgore Rangerettes, who are world  
5 renowned for their trademark high-kick routines, the college is  
6 also the site of the popular Rangerette Showcase; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of Kilgore are embracing the myriad  
8 challenges and opportunities of the future while continuing to  
9 build on their colorful history and rich culture, making them great  
10 contributors to the Lone Star State and a source of pride for all  
11 Texans; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2003, as Kilgore Day at  
14 the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to the delegation  
15 here today for an enjoyable and memorable visit.