

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 310

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Kilgore Rangerettes, the world's first women's
2 precision drill team, have become one of the most widely recognized
3 symbols of the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rangerettes were organized at the prompting of
5 Kilgore College president B. E. Masters, who thought that such a
6 group would draw more female students to the school while also
7 providing them with physical training; a further hope was that
8 halftime shows at football games would help keep fans in the
9 bleachers and so reduce the consumption of "improper beverages"
10 under the stands; and

11 WHEREAS, Gussie Nell Davis, who had established a high school
12 girls' drum and bugle corps in Greenville, became the Rangerettes'
13 first director, and Liggett Crim, a local oilman, covered the
14 initial expenses; and

15 WHEREAS, The team's fame spread quickly following their first
16 football game performance in 1940 and their first recorded parade,
17 at the Tyler Rose Festival, that same year; after the United States
18 entered World War II, their appearances included shows throughout
19 East Texas to promote the sale of war bonds; and

20 WHEREAS, Their lengthy resume is studded with performances at
21 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, the Sugar Bowl, and every Cotton
22 Bowl since 1951; the most recent of their eight overseas tours took
23 them to Dublin, Ireland, where they were guests at the 2000 St.
24 Patrick's Day parade and Lord Mayor's Ball; in addition, the

1 Rangerettes have performed in inaugural parades for Texas governors
2 Ann Richards, George W. Bush, and Rick Perry and for presidents
3 Dwight D. Eisenhower and George W. Bush; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rangerettes have been featured on the covers of
5 *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Esquire*, and hundreds of other publications, as
6 well as in a movie and numerous television programs; visitors to the
7 Kilgore campus can view exhibits of Rangerette costumes and
8 memorabilia and take in films and slide shows of their
9 performances; and

10 WHEREAS, In their long history, the Rangerettes have had only
11 three directors; Deana Covin assumed the leadership of the group
12 following the retirement of Miss Davis in 1979, and Dana Blair has
13 guided the team since Mrs. Covin's retirement in 1993; and

14 WHEREAS, With trademark flair and crisp, flawlessly executed
15 routines, the Rangerettes have mesmerized crowds and served as
16 goodwill ambassadors of their school and state for more than half a
17 century; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
19 Legislature hereby honor the Kilgore Rangerettes on the occasion of
20 Kilgore Day at the State Capitol and extend to them sincere best
21 wishes for continued success.