

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 377

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Cotton has ranked as one of the most important crops  
2 in Texas for a century and a half, and its significance was formally  
3 recognized in 1997 by the 75th Legislature, which named it the  
4 official fiber and fabric of the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, Introduced to Texas by Spanish missionaries,  
6 production of cotton soared between 1850 and 1900, when it reached  
7 more than 3,400,000 bales; contributing to the expansion were the  
8 opening of new lands for cultivation, the invention of barbed wire,  
9 and the extension of the railroad; cultivation on the Blackland  
10 Prairie of Central Texas was also spurred by the development of a  
11 plow that could break the heavy soil there and by the influx of  
12 thousands of immigrants, both from the Deep South and from Europe;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, The State of Texas has been the scene of several  
15 major innovations in the cotton industry; Robert S. Munger, who  
16 became a leading designer of ginning equipment, developed an  
17 automated system ginning process in Mexia in 1884, and in 1980 the  
18 country's first high-volume instrument cotton-classing office  
19 opened in Lamesa; and

20           WHEREAS, Evolution of the industry within the state has seen  
21 the center of cotton cultivation shift from East and Central Texas  
22 to the High Plains and the Rio Grande Valley, where the use of  
23 fertilizer and irrigation has promoted large yields; and

24           WHEREAS, Approximately one-quarter of all the cotton

1 harvested in the United States is grown in Texas, which has ranked  
2 first among all the states in most years over the past century;  
3 since 1993 the annual cotton crop in Texas has averaged 4.53 million  
4 bales; in 2001, Texas upland and pima lint cotton was valued at  
5 \$859,954,000, and Texas cottonseed, at \$140,547,000; and

6 WHEREAS, Much of the Texas cotton crop is shipped abroad,  
7 with Mexico, Japan, and South Korea figuring among the largest  
8 buyers; and

9 WHEREAS, The history of Texas cannot be told without taking  
10 into account the enormous role that cotton has played in the  
11 development of the state and in the life of so many of its people,  
12 and the crop continues to provide the livelihood of thousands of  
13 Texans; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 4, 2003, as Cotton Day at the  
16 State Capitol and extend to all those associated with the industry  
17 and who are present here today a warm welcome and sincere best  
18 wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.