

By: Pena

H.R. No. 413

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many citizens of the Delta area in Hidalgo County
2 are visiting Austin on March 10, 2003, to celebrate the significant
3 role this historic locale has played in the development of the Lower
4 Rio Grande Valley; and

5 WHEREAS, The Delta area was settled before 1800 by ranchers,
6 who introduced cattle and sheep and a variety of crops; Spanish land
7 grants in the vicinity included the Llano Grande, given to Juan José
8 Ynojosa de Ballí in 1790, and a grant issued to Vicente de Ynojosa
9 in 1797; some 50 or more years later, Miguel Fernández and Macedonio
10 Vela operated their ranches, La Bota and Laguna Seca, in the area;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, Anglo-Americans began making
13 their homes in this district, lured by the bright prospects for
14 developing truck farms; at one time, the Delta area was home to some
15 of the largest canning and packaging companies anywhere in the
16 world; today, agriculture continues to constitute a major source of
17 the county's economy, and Hidalgo County ranks first in the state in
18 the market value of its crops; and

19 WHEREAS, Towns in the Delta area include Edcouch, Elsa, La
20 Villa, and Monte Alto; Edcouch was named for local landowner and
21 banker Edward Couch, while Elsa was named for Elsie George, wife of
22 another local landowner, William George; on March 2, 2003, Elsa
23 celebrated the 76th anniversary of its founding; and

24 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to their youth and to civic

1 participation, area residents in 1997 created the Llano Grande
2 Center for Research and Development; a nonprofit organization based
3 at Edcouch-Elsa High School, the center works to nurture the
4 talents and leadership potential of local students and to
5 strengthen the community fabric; among the many successes of which
6 it can boast is a college preparation and placement program, begun
7 informally several years before the center's founding, that between
8 1993 and 2001 saw more than 51 students admitted to Ivy League
9 universities; and

10 WHEREAS, The residents of these proud Delta communities are
11 drawing on the strengths of all their people as they work to
12 preserve their rich heritage and build toward a future of
13 ever-expanding opportunity; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 10, 2003, as Delta Day at the
16 State Capitol and extend to all those here today sincere best wishes
17 for an enjoyable and memorable visit.