

By: Hamilton

H.R. No. 619

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Sour Lake have made many important
2 contributions to the economy and culture of the Lone Star State, and
3 this year, as the city commemorates its history with the Star
4 Centennial Celebration, we are reminded to pay special tribute to
5 these proud and hardworking Texans; and

6 WHEREAS, This Hardin County community, originally called
7 Sour Lake Springs, was settled in the mid-1830s; the town soon
8 became an elite spa destination for affluent travelers in search of
9 health, relaxation, and entertainment; those unable to make the
10 trip in person could still enjoy the benefits of the legendary
11 springs, as the entrepreneurs of Sour Lake packaged, marketed, and
12 sold drinking water to residents of Galveston and Houston; and

13 WHEREAS, With the dawn of the new century came dramatic
14 changes for this spa community; the Texas Company, now known the
15 world over as Texaco, bought large tracts of land for petroleum
16 exploration, and on January 8, 1903, oil was discovered at its Fee
17 No. 3 site, assuring the corporation's future as a leader in energy
18 exploration and production; Sour Lake, the company's birthplace,
19 became famous as the home of "Shoestring Row," a strip of oil
20 derricks that were so densely packed that an oilman could walk from
21 one platform to another for a distance of nearly half a mile; and

22 WHEREAS, In recent years, Sour Lake has returned to its roots
23 as a small, quiet country town, and its 1,700 residents take great
24 pride in their community's past while looking forward each day to

1 its bright future; last September, the Sour Lake Heritage Festival
2 marked the opening of the town's Oil Centennial Program, which
3 culminated on January 8, 2003, with a gala celebration that
4 featured historical reenactments, food and refreshments, art and
5 essay award presentations, and the sealing of a time capsule to be
6 opened in the year 2103; since its inception, this remarkable town
7 has exemplified the determination, enthusiasm, and perseverance
8 that are the true hallmarks of the Lone Star spirit, and its
9 contributions to Hardin County and the State of Texas are worthy of
10 commendation and praise; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the citizens of Sour Lake and
13 congratulate them on the 100th anniversary of their community's
14 great oil boom.