

By: Cook of Navarro

H.R. No. 785

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Family Land Heritage Program of the Texas
2 Department of Agriculture honors properties in Texas that have been
3 owned by the same family and agriculturally productive for more
4 than a century, and this year Ridgway Farms joins this
5 distinguished roster of Texas properties; and

6 WHEREAS, Located in Navarro County, this historical property
7 was purchased on February 19, 1895, by Martha M. Gay, who used it to
8 maintain a few milk cows as well as to raise cotton and corn; Mrs.
9 Gay's great-granddaughter, Ruth, assumed ownership of the land in
10 1951, and with the help of her husband, Jeff Henderson, the couple
11 added 734 acres to the original tract of land and produced cotton,
12 corn, wheat, oats, and haygrazer and raised cattle for many years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Their daughter, Naomi Ridgway, now owns the family
15 land, and she and her husband, Billy Joe Ridgway, have expanded the
16 homestead to include another 496 acres; and

17 WHEREAS, The role of the family farm in Texas history is
18 significant, and it is most appropriate that Martha M. Gay and her
19 descendants be honored for their enduring contributions to the Lone
20 Star State; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate Naomi Ridgway on the acceptance of
23 Ridgway Farms into the Family Land Heritage Program of the Texas
24 Department of Agriculture; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mrs. Ridgway as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.