

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 883

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On April 29, 2003, residents from Katy are gathering  
2 in Austin to celebrate Katy Day at the State Capitol; and

3           WHEREAS, First settled in 1872 and originally known as Cane  
4 Island, Katy took its present-day name from the Missouri, Kansas  
5 and Texas Railroad, which built through the area in the 1890s; the  
6 city was formally incorporated in 1945 and is located in three  
7 counties--Harris, Fort Bend, and Waller; and

8           WHEREAS, In the early days, the town's prosperity derived  
9 from the production of cotton, peanuts, and corn, but those crops  
10 were eclipsed after William Eule introduced rice farming in 1901;  
11 natural gas was discovered in 1934, and during World War II the size  
12 of the field's reserves, coupled with its proximity to Houston-area  
13 refineries, made it the most important gas-condensate field in the  
14 United States; today, Katy remains an important rail and  
15 agricultural center and continues to profit from one of the largest  
16 gas fields in the Lone Star State; and

17           WHEREAS, Among the town's cultural assets are Heritage Park,  
18 home to a number of historic buildings that have been restored by  
19 the Katy Heritage Society, and the Katy Veterans Memorial Museum,  
20 which features military exhibits of every foreign conflict  
21 involving the United States; the Katy Heritage Museum, located at  
22 6002 George Bush Drive in the VFW Park, opened on June 13, 2002;  
23 this 9,600-square-foot facility houses vintage farming equipment  
24 and artifacts from Katy's agricultural and pioneering history,

1 including old photographs and memorabilia; and

2 WHEREAS, Residents of this fine city enjoy commemorating its  
3 heritage each year at the Katy Rice Harvest Festival, sponsored by  
4 the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce; this celebration, which draws  
5 more than 50,000 people over a two-day period, is being held again  
6 on October 11-12, 2003; in addition, numerous parks in the city  
7 provide year-round opportunities for a wide range of recreational  
8 activities; and

9 WHEREAS, The award-winning Katy Independent School District  
10 (KISD) provides young Texans with a top-notch education and is  
11 considered one of the strongest and most competitive school  
12 districts in the state, as exemplified by the fact that it is one of  
13 only three large districts to have held the distinction of a  
14 "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency continuously  
15 since 1997; and

16 WHEREAS, Other indicators of the district's success include  
17 student achievement levels that in 2001-2002 met state standards  
18 for "exemplary" in both reading and math; KISD has 13 National Blue  
19 Ribbon Schools of Excellence, as well as an award-winning Partners  
20 in Education program, which provides approximately one volunteer  
21 for every three children in the district; furthermore, KISD is the  
22 first school district in the world to adopt a Junior Achievement  
23 (JA) "whole district" approach, providing the JA curriculum at each  
24 grade level and every campus; and

25 WHEREAS, This charming town prides itself on making sure  
26 "You'll Love Katy," and such organizations as Katy VFW Post No. 9182  
27 contribute to making the community special; the post has received

1 national awards for its exemplary community services; and

2 WHEREAS, The city is also the proud hometown of several  
3 talented citizens who have gained national attention; accomplished  
4 actress Renee Zellweger, a native of Katy, has won numerous awards  
5 for her performances in *Nurse Betty*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and  
6 *Chicago*; country western superstar Clint Black also grew up in Katy  
7 and has won nearly every music industry accolade imaginable,  
8 including being honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame for  
9 his outstanding contributions to music and entertainment; and

10 WHEREAS, Situated a scant 25 miles west of downtown Houston,  
11 Katy offers ready access to all the benefits of a big city while  
12 affording its residents the friendly community life of a small  
13 town; the citizens of Katy are embracing the myriad challenges and  
14 opportunities of the future while continuing to build on their  
15 history, and it is indeed most appropriate to pay tribute to them at  
16 this time; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize April 29, 2003, as Katy Day at the  
19 State Capitol and extend to the delegation here today sincere best  
20 wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.