

By: Hamilton

H.R. No. 949

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Newton County are marking an  
2 important occasion in the history of their community as they  
3 celebrate the dedication of a historical marker at the Wilson  
4 Chapel Cemetery on April 19, 2003; and

5           WHEREAS, Wilson Chapel Cemetery is located about four miles  
6 south of the city of Newton, in the Woods Community, at the  
7 intersection of county roads 4002 and 4004; named for the Reverend  
8 Francis Wilson, a notable East Texas preacher before and during the  
9 Civil War, the cemetery is situated on land where an early Methodist  
10 church was established by David McMahan, son of the Reverend Friend  
11 McMahan, Sr., a pioneer local Methodist minister; and

12           WHEREAS, Also known as Woods Cemetery or Irvine Cemetery, it  
13 is the site of four marked and several unmarked graves; those known  
14 to be buried in Wilson Chapel Cemetery include David McMahan, the  
15 first Newton County attorney and founder of the chapel; his  
16 brother, the Reverend Friend McMahan, Jr., a Methodist minister and  
17 farmer whose burial was probably the first in the cemetery;  
18 Josephus Somerville Irvine, a Civil War veteran, Methodist  
19 minister, and early county organizer who is thought to have been the  
20 youngest soldier, at 16, at the Battle of San Jacinto; and Edward G.  
21 Didham, an English army captain and one of the first local teachers;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, The Wilson Chapel Cemetery is of great significance  
24 to Newton County residents as a vital link to their forebears and

1 the rich history of East Texas, and the dedication of a historical  
2 marker is truly an event to celebrate; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby congratulate the citizens of Newton County on  
5 the placement of a historical marker at the Wilson Chapel Cemetery;  
6 and, be it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for the citizenry of Newton County as an expression of high  
9 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.