

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1072

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, With the passing of Wilburn Samuel Oatman on April  
2 26, 2002, at the age of 91, the citizens of Llano and Llano County  
3 lost a much-admired native son; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on November 27, 1910, to Wilburn F. P. and Dora  
5 Dowdy Oatman, Mr. Oatman was a descendant of pioneer settlers of his  
6 hometown and county; his great-grandfather cofounded the Valley  
7 Spring community while his Oatman forebears settled the town of  
8 Llano and what is today known as Oatman Creek; and

9           WHEREAS, He attended Southern Methodist University and later  
10 enrolled at Southwestern University, where he met his future bride,  
11 Frances Hicks; married on March 4, 1934, the couple made their home  
12 in Llano and enjoyed a warm and fulfilling relationship that was  
13 blessed with a cherished family, including two children, four  
14 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

15           WHEREAS, "Wilburn, Jr.," as he was known, joined the  
16 1882-established Oatman Law Firm, the oldest ongoing business in  
17 the county, and practiced law, first with his father and later with  
18 his son, from 1933 until his retirement nearly six decades later; he  
19 also was president of the county's oldest abstract and title  
20 company, and his assistance was instrumental in the development of  
21 the area; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Oatman devoted time and energy to public service  
23 as a longtime Llano city secretary and twice-elected mayor; during  
24 his tenure, the citizenry benefited from countless improvements, a

1 few of which were the acquisition of land for amenities such as a  
2 park and golf course, construction of a dam to provide water storage  
3 and recreation opportunities, better streets, a sewage plant  
4 expansion, and the installation of dial telephones; and

5 WHEREAS, A charter member of the Llano Chamber of Commerce  
6 and the Llano Lions Club, he was a Mason, Scottish Rite Shriner, a  
7 board member of the Llano Museum, and a lifelong member of the Lutie  
8 Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church; his professional and  
9 civic affiliations included the American and Highland Lakes bar  
10 associations, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Land Title  
11 Association; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Oatman also published a documentary on the  
13 city's history for its centennial celebration, wrote  
14 history-based, nostalgic articles published by the *Llano News*, and  
15 authored a special edition for the *Old Friends Great Texas*  
16 *Courthouses* 1995 calendar; an excellent photographer who did his  
17 own developing, he provided the photography for *Llano, Gem of the*  
18 *Hill Country*, a book written by his father, took photographs for the  
19 revised version, and wrote additional chapters, with the assistance  
20 of his daughter; and

21 WHEREAS, A highlight of his life was the 2002 presentation of  
22 a 75-year membership award from Llano Masonic Lodge No. 242; his  
23 honors also included a Llano County Hall of Fame Award in 1995 and a  
24 1994 Distinguished Agent's Award, one of only four given in the  
25 State of Texas to abstract and title company personnel; and

26 WHEREAS, The life of Wilburn Samuel Oatman has been an  
27 immeasurable blessing to his family, his friends, and the citizens

1 of Llano County, and this remarkable gentleman will long be  
2 remembered for his contributions to Llano and his fascination with  
3 its history; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Wilburn Samuel Oatman  
6 and extend sincere sympathy to his wife of 68 years, Frances Oatman;  
7 to his daughter, Sarah Oatman Franklin, to his son, Sam Oatman and  
8 daughter-in-law, Diane; to his grandchildren, Trey and Lance  
9 Franklin, Theron Oatman, and Jeannette Oatman Whitus and her  
10 husband, Brent; to his great-grandchild, Mikayla Catherine Whitus;  
11 and to all those who mourn the passing of this beloved man; and, be  
12 it further

13         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wilburn  
16 Samuel Oatman.