

By: Casteel

H.R. No. 1076

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2003 marks the 125th anniversary of the
2 town of Gruene, and among those residents celebrating this
3 milestone will be Pat Molak and Mary Jane Nalley, who have played a
4 central role over the past quarter-century in making Gruene a
5 popular tourist attraction; and

6 WHEREAS, Gruene is a historic district located on the
7 Guadalupe River in New Braunfels and was settled in the 1850s by
8 German farmers; in 1878 Henry D. Gruene built a mercantile store,
9 and by the turn of the century Gruene was a banking, ginning, and
10 shipping center, but the boll weevil blight and Great Depression
11 took a significant toll on the community, leaving it a veritable
12 ghost town; and

13 WHEREAS, Through it all, the centerpiece of this charming
14 locale has been Gruene Hall, which holds the distinction of being
15 the oldest continually operating dance hall in Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, A 6,000-square-foot structure topped with a
17 high-pitched tin roof, Gruene Hall has played host to a variety of
18 nationally known musical acts since its revitalization in the
19 mid-1970s, including George Strait, Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson, Bo
20 Diddley, Lyle Lovett, Jerry Jeff Walker, Asleep at the Wheel, Jerry
21 Lee Lewis, and others too numerous to mention; and

22 WHEREAS, The major architects of Gruene's transformation
23 from a sleepy town to a renowned music venue are Pat Molak and Mary
24 Jane Nalley; recognizing the building's possibilities for

1 renovation, Mr. Molak purchased Gruene Hall and was joined in 1977
2 by Ms. Nalley, who shared his vision of a revitalized Gruene; and

3 WHEREAS, Together they have not only made Gruene Hall a
4 nationally known point of interest, but are also the owners and
5 operators of such thriving ventures as the Gristmill River
6 Restaurant & Bar, Gruene Antique Company, Lone Star Country Goods,
7 Cotton-Eyed Joe's, and The Grapevine; and

8 WHEREAS, Pat Molak and Mary Jane Nalley have turned Gruene
9 into one of the most enjoyable tourist destinations in the Lone Star
10 State, and the city's 125th anniversary is an ideal opportunity to
11 honor them and the entire Gruene community; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize the 125th anniversary of Gruene,
14 Texas, and its centerpiece, Gruene Hall, and commend Pat Molak and
15 Mary Jane Nalley on their remarkable civic contributions; and, be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. Molak and Ms. Nalley as an expression of high
19 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.