

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 668

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Among the town's cultural assets are Heritage Park, home to a number of historic buildings that have been restored by the Katy Heritage Society, and the Katy Veterans Memorial Museum, which features military exhibits of every foreign conflict involving the United States; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Other indicators of the district's success include student achievement levels that in 2001-2002 met state standards for "exemplary" in both reading and math; Katy Independent School District has 13 National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, as well as an award-winning Partners in Education program, which provides approximately one volunteer for every three children in the district; furthermore, Katy Independent School District is the first school district in the world to adopt a Junior Achievement "whole district" approach, providing

the Junior Achievement curriculum at each grade level and every campus; and

WHEREAS, This charming town prides itself on making sure "You'll Love Katy," and such organizations as Katy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182 contribute to making the community special; the post has received national awards for its exemplary community services; and

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

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

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

Lindsay, Janek

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate