

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 157

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance (STAR)
2 Day bill, Senate Bill 1656, was passed by the 76th Texas Legislature
3 and signed into law by Governor George W. Bush on June 18, 1999;
4 this bill was sponsored by State Representative Craig Eiland and
5 State Senator Mike Jackson at the request of Galveston County
6 Dickinson High School ninth grade student, Daniel B. Kulvicki; this
7 bill states that all Texas public schools and other organizations
8 shall celebrate the birthday of the State of Texas on February 19
9 each year with appropriate and patriotic programs to inspire a
10 greater appreciation for the history of our state; and

11 WHEREAS, All 254 Texas County Judges sponsored County
12 Memorial Resolutions in support of the STAR DAY bill with Galveston
13 County Judge James D. Yarbrough, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels,
14 and Loving County Judge Donald C. Creager initially pioneering and
15 leading the statewide effort to support the founding of STAR DAY at
16 the request of Galveston County High School student Daniel B.
17 Kulvicki; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day
19 Foundation was organized in 1998 and chartered in 1999 as a Texas
20 not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation with the mission
21 to pioneer and lead a statewide effort to carry out the legislative
22 intent of the STAR DAY bill by planning, developing, and conducting
23 appropriate and patriotic programs during the year, in partnership
24 with all Texas public schools and other organizations to honor and

1 remember the life and achievements of the pioneers and leaders of
2 the State of Texas and to celebrate the birthday of the State of
3 Texas at all Texas public schools with the volunteer service of
4 students, parents, and school staff; and

5 WHEREAS, James Pinckney Henderson (1808-1858), first
6 Governor of the State of Texas in 1846, passed away while serving as
7 a United States Senator from the State of Texas, was buried in the
8 Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. in 1858, and was
9 returned home to Texas with the support of the State of Texas
10 Legislature as well as with permission of family descendants to be
11 reburied in the Texas State Cemetery on San Jacinto Day, April 21,
12 1930; and

13 WHEREAS, Frances Cox Henderson (1820-1897), the first First
14 Lady of the State of Texas in 1846, never remarried after the death
15 of her husband and lived a long and fruitful life of service before
16 she passed away at the home of her daughter in East Orange, Essex
17 County, New Jersey, on January 25, 1897 and was buried in the
18 Rosedale Cemetery in East Orange; and

19 WHEREAS, Students participating in the after-school "STAR
20 Day School Library Readers are Leaders Program," sponsored by the
21 STAR DAY Foundation at San Elizario Middle School in El Paso County
22 under the direction of Ms. Velia B. Duran and supported by Principal
23 John Tanner, learned that Mrs. Henderson was buried in New Jersey,
24 but her husband was reburied in Texas and the students proposed a
25 statewide effort to bring her home to Texas and rebury her with her
26 husband in the Texas State Cemetery on a STAR Day with the support
27 of the people of Texas as an appropriate and patriotic birthday

1 present for our state; and

2 WHEREAS, The STAR Day Foundation formally announced on STAR
3 Day, February 19, 2004, at "The Third Annual Spirit of STAR Day
4 Celebration at the State Capitol" event sponsored by State
5 Representative Bob Hunter, a STAR Day Founder, to celebrate the
6 birthday of the State of Texas in the Capitol Rotunda each year with
7 a music and song program presented by a Texas Junior High School as
8 their school STAR Day birthday present to our state, "The Frances
9 Cox Henderson Remembrance Project" in partnership with the Texas
10 State Cemetery Committee to carry out the suggestion of students of
11 San Elizario Middle School in El Paso County with the goals to bring
12 Mrs. Henderson home to Texas to lie in repose in the State Capitol
13 Rotunda for two days to be honored and remembered by the people of
14 the State of Texas as an outstanding pioneer and leader of the State
15 of Texas and to be buried with her husband in a new joint burial site
16 approved by the Texas State Cemetery Committee on STAR Day,
17 February 19, 2007, and to plan, develop, and publish an illustrated
18 book about her life and achievements to be donated to Texas Junior
19 High Schools as a seventh grade level book in "The STAR Day School
20 Library Readers Book Series" sponsored by proceeds of the annual
21 subscription of "The STAR Day School Library Readers are Leaders"
22 specialty license plate authorized by the State of Texas
23 Legislature on behalf of the STAR Day Foundation and other donated
24 funds; and

25 WHEREAS, San Augustine County was the home of the Henderson
26 family for many years; the San Augustine County Commissioners'
27 Court at the request of the STAR Day Foundation with support of

1 County Judge Wayne Holt, a STAR Day Founder, formally designated on
2 January 10, 2005, the 21st of July each year as "The Frances Cox
3 Henderson Remembrance Day" throughout San Augustine County to
4 encourage all students of the county to study and appreciate the
5 life and achievements of Mrs. Henderson as a pioneer and leader of
6 the State of Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, The STAR Day Foundation formally announced on
8 February 19, 2005, the successful achievement with the family
9 genealogy and history research efforts of the internationally known
10 genealogist, Ms. Pamela S. Eagleson of Maine, to successfully
11 locate worldwide descendants of Mrs. Henderson in numerous
12 countries, including Austria, Brazil, Germany, Norway, and the
13 United States, and their formal legal approval to support the goals
14 of the project were successfully obtained; and

15 WHEREAS, Noting that on February 19, 2006, the State of Texas
16 shall be the 28th state of the United States for 160 years, the STAR
17 Day Foundation formally announced in El Paso County on July 21,
18 2005, the birthday of Mrs. Henderson, the establishment of "The
19 Great Texas Lincoln Penny Roundup Campaign" to invite people of
20 Texas to roundup their pennies with the help of volunteer students
21 and donate them to the STAR Day Foundation in support of the goals
22 of "The Frances Cox Henderson Remembrance Project" as an
23 appropriate and patriotic birthday present for our state; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize February 12 - 19, 2006 as "The Great
27 Texas Lincoln Penny Roundup Pledge Week" and encourage all Texans

H.R. No. 157

1 to volunteer and participate in supporting the achievement of the
2 goals of "The Frances Cox Henderson Remembrance Project" as an
3 appropriate and patriotic birthday present for our state.