

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 256

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Austin, in keeping with the
2 Rotary International tradition of humanitarian service, is
3 sponsoring the inaugural Rotary Week for World Health, beginning
4 January 3, 2006; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of the Austin club are encouraging other
6 Rotary groups to join them in refraining from serving a meal during
7 their meetings that week; the hunger that members experience
8 briefly will serve as a reminder of the plight suffered by billions
9 of people around the world on a daily basis, and the money that
10 members would have otherwise spent on their meal is to be donated to
11 community-based health projects around the world; participating
12 clubs will also focus their attention and efforts on health issues
13 through speakers, programs, projects, and other activities; and

14 WHEREAS, Rotary International is an organization of business
15 and professional people who work to better the lives of those in
16 need, who promote high ethical standards in all vocations, and who
17 help build goodwill and peace throughout the world; today there are
18 more than 1.2 million Rotarians in over 30,000 Rotary clubs in 168
19 countries; and

20 WHEREAS, Rotary's staunch commitment to service is
21 exemplified by the organization's crucial role in the drive to
22 eradicate polio; through a worldwide campaign inspired by Rotary
23 efforts and joined by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and
24 the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, more than two billion

1 children in 122 countries have been vaccinated against polio since
2 1985; it is estimated that by the time the world is certified as
3 polio-free, probably in 2008, Rotarians will have contributed \$600
4 million to the eradication effort, in addition to the volunteer
5 manpower provided to actually administer the vaccine; and

6 WHEREAS, While polio has now been eliminated in all but a
7 handful of countries, other devastating illnesses, such as malaria,
8 typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis, continue to blight the lives of
9 people in developing regions; to assist in addressing these
10 challenges, as well as such related concerns as lack of potable
11 water and malnutrition, is the mission of the newly created Health
12 Committee of the Rotary Club of Austin; members of that club believe
13 firmly that the concerted efforts of Rotarians worldwide can make a
14 difference in the lives of millions of men, women, and children who
15 are threatened by dangerous health conditions, and it is a pleasure
16 to commend this club for its determined advocacy; now, therefore,
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
19 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby recognize the week
20 beginning January 3, 2006, as Rotary Week for World Health and
21 encourage all Texans to support this admirable initiative; and, be
22 it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for the Rotary Club of Austin as an expression of high
25 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.