

By: Branch

H.R. No. 336

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Dallas marked the 150th anniversary of  
2 its charter in February 2006; and

3           WHEREAS, Dallas originated as a trading post near the  
4 confluence of the West and Elm Forks of the Trinity River; a town  
5 site was surveyed in 1844, and when Dallas County was organized in  
6 1846, the fledgling community of Dallas became the county seat; and

7           WHEREAS, The origin of the city's name has long been debated;  
8 possible namesakes include George Mifflin Dallas, vice president of  
9 the United States from 1845 to 1849, his brother, Commodore  
10 Alexander J. Dallas of the U.S. Navy, and Joseph Dallas, an early  
11 resident of the area; and

12           WHEREAS, Granted a charter by the Texas Legislature on  
13 February 2, 1856, Dallas citizens proceeded to install a city  
14 government; the town's first public officials included Mayor Samuel  
15 B. Pryor, six aldermen, a treasurer-recorder, and a constable; and

16           WHEREAS, Over the years, the city's form of governance has  
17 changed several times; in 1907, Dallas instituted a commission form  
18 of government, with a mayor and four commissioners to manage city  
19 affairs, and in 1931 it moved to a council-manager system; the first  
20 city council sworn into office was headed by Mayor T. L. Bradford  
21 and composed of W. H. Painter, Joe C. Thomas, T. M. Cullum, A. B.  
22 Moore, H. C. Burroughs, Victor H. Hexter, Charles F. Turner, and E.  
23 R. Brown; and

24           WHEREAS, Since 1971, the Dallas City Council has been based

1 on single-member districts, with the mayor elected at-large; the  
2 present council includes Mayor Laura Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Donald  
3 W. Hill, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia, and Pauline Medrano,  
4 Ed Oakley, Dr. Maxine Thornton-Reese, Steve Salazar, Leo V. Chaney,  
5 Jr., James L. Fantroy, Gary Griffith, Bill Blaydes, Linda Koop, Ron  
6 Natinsky, Mitchell Rasansky, and Angela Hunt; and

7 WHEREAS, Early in its history, Dallas became a service center  
8 for farmers and ranchers in the surrounding area; its commercial  
9 importance expanded further with the arrival of the Houston and  
10 Texas Central Railway in 1872 and the Texas and Pacific Railway the  
11 following year; one of the first rail crossroads in the state,  
12 Dallas became the main regional shipping point for products  
13 destined for northern and eastern manufacturing plants, as well as  
14 a leading center for the leather and buffalo-hide trade; and

15 WHEREAS, Strong-willed men and women helped Dallas to rebound  
16 from the Great Depression; in addition to securing the city's  
17 prominence in the realm of petroleum financing, they achieved major  
18 successes with a project to straighten and tame the Trinity River  
19 and a winning bid to host the 1936 Texas Centennial; Fair Park, the  
20 site chosen for the exposition, was extensively made over with the  
21 investment of millions of dollars in private and public donations  
22 and now contains what is believed to be the largest assemblage of  
23 Art Deco art and architecture in the world; a National Historic  
24 Landmark, Fair Park continues to host the annual State Fair of  
25 Texas, which was first staged on its grounds in 1886; and

26 WHEREAS, During World War II, with the acquisition of North  
27 American Aviation and other war-related industries, Dallas emerged

1 as a significant manufacturing center; the city's status as one of  
2 the foremost urban areas in the nation was both underscored and  
3 immeasurably enhanced by the opening, in 1974, of the Dallas/Fort  
4 Worth International Airport; and

5 WHEREAS, Embracing a half-square mile when it was first laid  
6 out, Dallas has grown to encompass 384 square miles and a population  
7 of more than 1.2 million people, making it the ninth-largest city in  
8 the United States; driven primarily by the robust Dallas economy,  
9 the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area  
10 currently accounts for approximately 30 percent of the gross state  
11 product of Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, The advantages enjoyed by Dallas extend well beyond  
13 its commanding position as a bastion of business, finance, and  
14 industry; this city also enjoys renown for its outstanding cultural  
15 resources, including institutions such as the Dallas Museum of Art,  
16 Dallas Museum of Natural History, Trammell and Margaret Crow  
17 Collection of Asian Art, and Nasher Sculpture Center; and

18 WHEREAS, The city's major league sports franchises have all  
19 achieved notable success and garnered the loyalty of countless  
20 fans; contests featuring the Dallas Mavericks, the Dallas Stars,  
21 who won the 1999 Stanley Cup, and the Dallas Cowboys, who have  
22 captured five Super Bowl championships, rank among the area's most  
23 popular attractions; and

24 WHEREAS, Given the eminent role that Dallas has played in the  
25 development of Texas, it is not surprising that a number of the  
26 state's most important political leaders have hailed from that  
27 community; public officials who have called Dallas home during

1 their tenure include Governors Charles A. Culberson, 1895-1899, and  
2 William P. Clements, 1979-1983 and 1987-1991, Lieutenant Governors  
3 John McClannahan Crockett, 1861-1863, Barnett Gibbs, 1885-1887,  
4 and Barry Miller, 1925-1931, and Speakers of the House Nicholas  
5 Henry Darnell, 1861-1862, Nathaniel Macon Burford, 1866, John  
6 Hughes Cochran, 1879-1881 and 1893-1895, and William Otey Reed,  
7 1947-1949; and

8         WHEREAS, Under difficult circumstances, Lyndon Baines  
9 Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 36th president at Love Field in  
10 Dallas in 1963; the city hosted its first major-party,  
11 presidential nominating convention in 1984, when Republicans met in  
12 Dallas to endorse Ronald Reagan for a second term in the White  
13 House, and George W. Bush resided in Dallas before his election to  
14 the governorship of Texas and subsequently to the presidency of the  
15 United States; and

16         WHEREAS, A Lone Star State without Big D, that proud and  
17 vibrant city that epitomizes so many facets of the Texas mystique,  
18 would be utterly unthinkable, and it is indeed a pleasure to join in  
19 commemorating the momentous occasion of that city's  
20 sesquicentennial; now, therefore, be it

21         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
22 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Dallas on the 150th  
23 anniversary of its charter and extend to all the citizens of that  
24 great city sincere best wishes as they look with confidence to the  
25 challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.