

By: England

H.R. No. 590

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A 90th birthday is truly reason for celebration, and  
2 on May 24, 2006, Emmadean Berry is marking this milestone in her  
3 life in a singular fashion during Emmadean Berry Week in Grand  
4 Prairie; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in 1916, the youngest of five children,  
6 Mrs. Berry is descended from German American ancestors who settled  
7 in Northeast Texas in the 1840s; she grew up in Stoneburg in  
8 Montague County, where her family farmed and ranched; and

9           WHEREAS, Her girlhood included weekly poise and speaking  
10 lessons at Ms. Mangrum's School of Expression, practice on her  
11 ukulele, and gatherings of family and neighbors, which were  
12 enlivened by music and games of croquet; an accomplished athlete  
13 whose sport of choice was basketball, she also became a proficient  
14 horsewoman by herding cattle and turkeys on her horse, Queenie; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1933, after a whirlwind courtship, the former  
16 Emmadean Yowell married Wilbur "Wilb" Jasper Berry, the brother of  
17 a high school friend; the devoted couple enjoyed 67 years of  
18 marriage until Mr. Berry's passing, and they took great pride in  
19 their three children, Greta Faye Berry Beckler, Anita June Berry  
20 Martin, and Ronald Lewis Berry; today, Mrs. Berry is the matriarch  
21 of a family that has grown to include six grandchildren and five  
22 great-grandchildren; and

23           WHEREAS, Emmadean Berry has lived in Grand Prairie since  
24 1942, when her husband accepted a job there in the aircraft

1 industry; the move to Grand Prairie was a memorable one, with the  
2 family and all its belongings, including its milk cow, packed into  
3 the borrowed Cashion school bus that Mr. Berry used to drive; and

4 WHEREAS, Since launching a successful real estate business in  
5 1960, Mrs. Berry has played an active role in professional  
6 organizations at the local, state, and national level; now an  
7 honorary member of the Grand Prairie Board of Realtors, she served  
8 as president of that board in 1970 and won its Realtor of the Year  
9 Award in 1970 and 1989; she is the namesake of the board's Emmadean  
10 Berry Service Award and the 1992 recipient of the Distinguished  
11 Service Award of the Texas Association of Realtors; and

12 WHEREAS, A founder and the first female manager of the Grand  
13 Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Berry has received the chamber's  
14 Member of the Year and Pacesetter Awards and holds life membership  
15 in the organization; this civic-minded woman was also instrumental  
16 in the founding of Soroptimist International of Grand Prairie, the  
17 Grand Prairie Woman's Club, and Grand Prairie United Charities; in  
18 addition, she has served as president of the Federation of Women's  
19 Clubs, the Toastmistress Club, the local Business and Professional  
20 Women's Club, and the PTA, and sat on the city's planning and zoning  
21 committee and its water and planning commissions; and

22 WHEREAS, Among the many remarkable moments she has enjoyed  
23 during the past nine decades, Mrs. Berry counts her selection as  
24 second runner-up in the Mrs. America pageant and her three-time  
25 designation to lead the Grand Entry at the Fort Worth Exposition and  
26 Fat Stock Show; and

27 WHEREAS, Sustained by a strong faith, Mrs. Berry has been a

1 loyal congregant of First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie for 64  
2 years; during that time, she has welcomed countless members and  
3 visitors from her post at the church registration desk; and

4 WHEREAS, Emmadean Berry has led an exceptionally full and  
5 productive life, and her birthday provides a fitting opportunity to  
6 recognize this beloved lady for her admirable civic and  
7 professional contributions and for the happiness she has brought to  
8 the lives of so many people; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
10 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby warmly congratulate  
11 Emmadean Berry on her 90th birthday and extend sincere best wishes  
12 to her for continued happiness; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Mrs. Berry as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
15 House of Representatives.