

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

**WHEREAS**, The City of Dallas marked the 150th anniversary of its charter in February 2006; and

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Since 1971, the Dallas City Council has been based on single-member districts, with the mayor elected at-large; the present council includes Mayor Laura Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Donald W. Hill, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia, and Pauline Medrano, Ed Oakley, Dr. Maxine Thornton-Reese, Steve Salazar, Leo V. Chaney, Jr., James L. Fantroy, Gary Griffith, Bill Blaydes, Linda Koop, Ron Natinsky, Mitchell Rasansky, and Angela Hunt; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Strong-willed men and women helped Dallas to rebound from the Great Depression; in addition to securing the city's prominence in the realm of petroleum financing, they

achieved major successes with a project to straighten and tame the Trinity River and a winning bid to host the 1936 Texas Centennial; Fair Park, the site chosen for the exposition, was extensively made over with the investment of millions of dollars in private and public donations and now contains what is believed to be the largest assemblage of Art Deco art and architecture in the world; a National Historic Landmark, Fair Park continues to host the annual State Fair of Texas, which was first staged on its grounds in 1886; and

**WHEREAS**, During World War II, with the acquisition of North American Aviation and other war-related industries, Dallas emerged as a significant manufacturing center; the city's status as one of the foremost urban areas in the nation was both underscored and immeasurably enhanced by the opening, in 1974, of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Given the eminent role that Dallas has played in the development of Texas, it is not surprising that a number of the state's most important political leaders have hailed from that community; public officials who have called Dallas home during their tenure include Governors Charles A. Culberson, 1895-1899, and William P. Clements, 1979-1983 and 1987-1991, Lieutenant Governors John McClannahan Crockett, 1861-1863, Barnett Gibbs, 1885-1887, and Barry Miller, 1925-1931, and Speakers of the House Nicholas Henry Darnell, 1861-1862, Nathaniel Macon Burford, 1866, John Hughes Cochran, 1879-1881 and 1893-1895, and William Otey Reed, 1947-1949; and

**WHEREAS**, Under difficult circumstances, Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 36th president at Love Field in Dallas

in 1963; the city hosted its first major-party, presidential nominating convention in 1984, when Republicans met in Dallas to endorse Ronald Reagan for a second term in the White House, and George W. Bush resided in Dallas before his election to the governorship of Texas and subsequently to the presidency of the United States; and

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

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

Carona

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 2, 2006.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate