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H.C.R. No. 111

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The East Texas Oil Museum is celebrating two  
2 momentous milestones on October 3, 2005--the 25th anniversary of  
3 the museum's opening and the 75th anniversary of the discovery of  
4 the East Texas Oil Field, the largest and most productive field in  
5 the contiguous 48 states; and

6           WHEREAS, After promoting several unsuccessful drilling  
7 ventures in the area, which had been deemed barren by major oil  
8 companies, C. M. "Dad" Joiner, working with geologist Dr. A. D.  
9 Lloyd and driller Ed Laster, brought in the Daisy Bradford No. 3 in  
10 Rusk County on October 3, 1930; news of the strike sparked a massive  
11 boom, and as other wells were quickly sunk it was discovered that  
12 the field stretched over five counties; although the major  
13 companies signed leases in the region, it was independent oil men  
14 such as H. L. Hunt who chiefly developed the field in its early  
15 years; and

16           WHEREAS, The East Texas Oil Museum was conceived by Al Hill, a  
17 son-in-law of Mr. Hunt's, as a means of honoring that gentleman and  
18 his achievements, together with preserving the history of the East  
19 Texas Oil Field, celebrating the free enterprise system, and paying  
20 tribute to the independent oil men who pioneered the discovery and  
21 development of the giant oil reservoir; and

22           WHEREAS, After discussions among Margaret Hunt Hill, her  
23 husband, Al Hill, and Dr. Randolph Watson, president of Kilgore  
24 College, it was decided to build the museum on the Kilgore College

1 campus; the choice was a fitting one, for the town of Kilgore had  
2 served as the center of the East Texas oil boom; construction of the  
3 facility was financed by the Hunt-owned Placid Oil Company, which  
4 also created an endowment to support the museum's operation; and

5 WHEREAS, On October 3, 1980, the Honorable William P.  
6 Clements, Jr., governor of Texas, officially dedicated the  
7 multimillion-dollar facility as Margaret and Al Hill and other Hunt  
8 family members looked on, joined by dozens of individuals from the  
9 oil industry and thousands of citizens from throughout the region;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The spectacular museum quickly became a cornerstone  
12 of tourism in East Texas, and it hosted its one-millionth visitor in  
13 1987; the museum has also garnered numerous accolades, and on  
14 October 3, 1986, the Texas Historical Commission presented the  
15 prestigious Texas Award for Historic Preservation to Placid Oil  
16 Company for making the facility possible; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the years, the East Texas Oil Museum has drawn  
18 the attention of individuals from around the world who are  
19 interested in building an oil museum in their own cities; moreover,  
20 the East Texas Oil Museum staff and Docents Guild take great pride  
21 in the institution's role as a teaching facility; each year it hosts  
22 some 10,000 schoolchildren from across the region, in addition to  
23 numerous college and university classes; and

24 WHEREAS, Museum staff have also worked with movie makers and  
25 individuals from public television in the production of such  
26 documentary films as *The Wildcatters*, *The Prize*, and *Suicide*  
27 *Mission*, as well as with Clint Eastwood's company in the making of

1 the Hollywood film *The Stars Fell on Henrietta*, starring Academy  
2 Award-winner Robert Duvall; and

3 WHEREAS, For a quarter of a century, the East Texas Oil Museum  
4 has transported visitors back to the heady, tumultuous times of the  
5 region's 1930s-era oil boom, while playing a crucial role in  
6 preserving the history and culture of that extraordinary period;  
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
9 hereby commemorate the silver anniversary of the opening of the  
10 East Texas Oil Museum and the diamond jubilee of the discovery of  
11 the East Texas Oil Field and extend to all those associated with the  
12 museum sincere best wishes for a grand and memorable celebration.