

By: Seaman

H.R. No. 456

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of Rotary
2 International, and in recognition of this important milestone,
3 February 23, 2005, is being celebrated as Rotary International Day
4 at the State Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, On February 23, 1905, four young businessmen, led by
6 attorney Paul Harris, joined together in Chicago in an effort to
7 provide professionals with opportunities for service projects and
8 fellowship; and

9 WHEREAS, A century later, the organization has grown to
10 include more than 1,200,000 Rotarians in 166 countries, represented
11 by nearly 32,000 clubs and over 500 districts; and

12 WHEREAS, This nonpolitical, nonpartisan, and nonreligious
13 organization is dedicated to increasing world peace and
14 understanding, improving health and alleviating hunger worldwide,
15 and developing goodwill among people of all nations; and

16 WHEREAS, One of the group's many notable humanitarian
17 projects is the Polio Plus program, which is committed to
18 eradicating this deadly virus; since the plan's inception in 1985,
19 a time when nearly half a million children were diagnosed with polio
20 annually, Rotarians have led a highly successful and coordinated
21 effort to help completely wipe out the disease; with contributions
22 of more than \$600 million and innumerable hours of volunteer
23 service and the participation of the World Health Organization and
24 UNICEF, Polio Plus has helped to immunize more than two billion

1 children, and today over 200 countries, territories, and regions
2 around the world are polio free; and

3 WHEREAS, In an effort to promote world understanding and
4 peace, the association has developed a host of worthy programs such
5 as Health, Hunger, and Humanities, ambassadorial scholarships,
6 group study exchanges, and Rotary Peace Scholars; and

7 WHEREAS, Rotary International was first established in the
8 Lone Star State on April 10, 1911, in Dallas; today, more than
9 25,000 Rotary members in nearly 500 clubs across the state provide
10 support for community, state, and international projects designed
11 to "do good in the world"; and

12 WHEREAS, Current Texas Rotary district governors include
13 Thomas Sheriff, Gilbert Brown, Benjamin Agnor, John Peterson, Gene
14 Davenport, D'Lisa Simmons, Emken Linton, George Dawson, Charles
15 Aiken, and Charles Cotton; and

16 WHEREAS, The dedicated contributions of all the members of
17 Rotary in Texas and Rotary International are truly commendable, and
18 it is a pleasure to join with them in celebration of the
19 organization's centennial; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 23, 2005, as Rotary
22 International Day at the State Capitol and welcome those Rotarians
23 visiting here today; and, be it further

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