

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 558

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 1, 2005, is a day of celebration at the State
2 Capitol, where residents of Kilgore are gathering to share their
3 justifiable pride in their beloved hometown; and

4 WHEREAS, Surrounded by the lush green pine forests and clear
5 blue lakes of East Texas, Kilgore was founded as a railroad stop in
6 the 1870s, and was named for Constantine Buckley "Buck" Kilgore, a
7 farmer, sawmill operator, and federal judge; and

8 WHEREAS, On October 3, 1930, Columbus "Dad" Joiner struck oil
9 on the Daisy Bradford No. 3, thus discovering the East Texas
10 oilfield, a Woodbine sand reservoir measuring 42 miles in length
11 and averaging 10 miles in width and covering more than 400 square
12 miles in five counties; and

13 WHEREAS, With the success of the Lou Della Crim in December of
14 that same year, Kilgore was established as the center of the East
15 Texas oilfield, and the town's population grew more than tenfold
16 during that period; and

17 WHEREAS, Kilgore's stature as a petroleum producer assumed
18 new importance during World War II, as the area's fuel production
19 was instrumental in the Allied victory; as a reminder of this
20 contribution, the more than 60 oil derricks that dot the town's
21 skyline are crowned with stars, prompting Kilgore's official
22 designation as the Texas City of Stars; and

23 WHEREAS, Through the years, Kilgore has continued to grow in
24 both size and stature while retaining the small-town friendliness

1 and sense of community for which it is known; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to its importance as a location for
3 higher learning, Kilgore College is also home to two of the city's
4 most beloved institutions, the world-famous Kilgore Rangerettes
5 drill team and the East Texas Oil Museum; and

6 WHEREAS, Created through the generosity of the Placid Oil
7 Company and the children of the late H. L. Hunt, the museum honors
8 Mr. Hunt and his achievements, preserves the history of the East
9 Texas oilfield, celebrates the free enterprise system, and pays
10 tribute to the independent oilmen who pioneered the discovery and
11 development of the oilfield; and

12 WHEREAS, The year 2005 is a festive one indeed for Kilgore, as
13 it marks both the silver anniversary of the East Texas Oil Museum
14 and the diamond anniversary of the discovery of oil in East Texas,
15 and both events will be celebrated at numerous events throughout
16 the year by members of the Kilgore community; and

17 WHEREAS, Among those visiting Austin on this special day are
18 Roland and Amy Velvin, Mike and Diana Coston, Perry and Carolyn
19 Johnston, Jimmy and Sharon Breedlove, Mike Wilcox, Candace Gast,
20 Pat Nault, Jerry Roberts, Kenneth and Norma Plunk, Jack Ward,
21 Harvey McClendon, Bobby Beane, Gene Keenon, Amanda Nobles, Bill
22 Woodall, Sammy and Cherisa York, the Reverend Frank and Margaret
23 Mathews, Bob Ellzey, Wayne McDougal, Dr. Bill Holda, Randy and Ann
24 Brogoitti, and Tim Vaughn; and

25 WHEREAS, These proud Texans, like their fellow Kilgore
26 residents, look forward to what lies ahead for this remarkable
27 city, for they know that Kilgore is possessed of a future every bit

1 as bright as its past is colorful; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
3 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2005, as Kilgore Day at the
4 State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to all those
5 associated with this memorable event.