

By: Hopson

H.C.R. No. 55

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Rusk County are assembling at the
2 Texas State Capitol to celebrate Rusk County Day on February 7,
3 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, A picturesque region of rolling hills in the Piney
5 Woods of East Texas, Rusk County was first occupied by the Caddo and
6 the Cherokee tribes; the first European settlers arrived in the
7 1830s, and on January 16, 1843, the county was formed by act of the
8 Congress of the Republic of Texas and named after Thomas Jefferson
9 Rusk, secretary of war under Texas President Sam Houston; and

10 WHEREAS, For many years, the county's economy was based on
11 cotton and other agriculture, but on October 3, 1930, Columbus
12 Marion "Dad" Joiner struck oil at his famous Daisy Bradford #3 well,
13 opening up the East Texas oil field, which at the time was the
14 largest oil field in the world; three years later, Rusk County was
15 producing over 200 million barrels of petroleum a year, turning
16 county seat Henderson from a sleepy village to a bustling boomtown;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Oil and agriculture continue to be mainstays of the
19 county's economy, along with natural gas, timber, and the mining of
20 lignite coal; in addition, Rusk County's bricks, made from the
21 region's unique clay soil, are highly prized; the county economy is
22 further bolstered by two correctional institutions, with Bradshaw
23 State Jail in Henderson being the largest privately owned and
24 operated state jail in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Only two miles from "Dad" Joiner's original well,
2 the Gaston Museum in Joinerville commemorates the history of the
3 East Texas oil field; in Henderson, the Depot Museum, a beautifully
4 restored Missouri Pacific railway depot from 1901, hosts the annual
5 Heritage Syrup Festival every November; recreational opportunities
6 abound in the county's parks, including Martin Creek Lake State
7 Park, which offers swimming, boating, fishing, waterskiing, and
8 other activities; and

9 WHEREAS, With its rich history, scenic landscape, and
10 prosperous economy, Rusk County has contributed greatly to the
11 proud traditions of the Lone Star State, and its citizens can be
12 proud to make their homes in this lovely and productive area; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate February 7, 2007, as Rusk County Day at the State
16 Capitol and extend to the county's visiting citizens a warm welcome
17 and best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.