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H.R. No. 128

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Oak Cliff, the venerable community on the south bank
2 of the Trinity River, marks the 105th anniversary of its annexation
3 to Dallas on March 17, 2008; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally known as Hord's Ridge, Oak Cliff traces
5 its roots to the 1845 arrival of the William H. Hord family and to
6 the farming community that subsequently grew in the vicinity; in
7 the 1880s the area of Hord's Ridge was bought by Thomas Marsalis and
8 John Armstrong, who dreamed of creating an exclusive residential
9 development there and who gave the site its present name; and

10 WHEREAS, After the pair successfully launched the sale of
11 lots, Thomas Marsalis gained control of the project and undertook
12 several ventures to add to the new town's attractiveness; these
13 included the introduction of a steam-powered railway to connect the
14 development with downtown Dallas, the establishment of a 150-acre
15 park, now known as Marsalis Park and Zoo, and the erection of a fine
16 hotel featuring several mineral baths; and

17 WHEREAS, Oak Cliff enjoyed a period of favor as an upscale
18 residential and resort community before the depression of 1893
19 drove Mr. Marsalis into bankruptcy; a number of lots once owned by
20 his company were then subdivided and sold; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1903, after rejecting several overtures from
22 Dallas and still struggling with a sluggish economy, Oak Cliff
23 voters finally agreed to annexation to their larger neighbor;
24 development over the next several decades included hundreds of

1 modest homes as well as the grand residences of Kessler Park; and

2 WHEREAS, Set on rolling hills a few miles from downtown
3 Dallas, Oak Cliff today is home to a broadly inclusive population,
4 with residents representing a variety of ethnic and cultural groups
5 and economic backgrounds; and

6 WHEREAS, These citizens are acting through a number of
7 organizations, such as the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Old Oak
8 Cliff Conservation League, Oak Cliff Foundation, and various
9 neighborhood groups, to promote the preservation and
10 revitalization of their community; their efforts have figured
11 prominently in the rebirth of Jefferson Boulevard, West Davis
12 Street, and Fort Worth Avenue, in the renovation of the historic
13 Texas Theater, and in the flowering of the Bishop Arts District; and

14 WHEREAS, Members of close-knit communities within the larger
15 embrace of Oak Cliff, the residents of this unique section of Dallas
16 are holding fast to their rich history while forging an ever
17 brighter and more promising future; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate the citizens of Oak Cliff on the
20 105th anniversary of their community's annexation to Dallas and
21 extend to them sincere best wishes as they build on their notable
22 heritage.