

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 169

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Van Zandt County are visiting
2 the State Capitol on March 14, 2007, to celebrate the significant
3 part they and their forebears have played in the development of the
4 Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Created by an Act of the Texas Legislature on March
6 20, 1847, this Northeast Texas county was named for Isaac Van Zandt,
7 a Republic of Texas lawyer, legislator, and diplomat; and

8 WHEREAS, Canton, the county seat, was laid out in 1850 and
9 incorporated in 1919; named a Main Street City, it is home to the
10 Van Zandt County Fair and First Monday Trade Days, one of the
11 country's best-known flea markets; a library of genealogy and local
12 history is also a popular attraction and preserves much of the
13 county's notable heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, The development of this fascinating area can be
15 traced in a number of other communities as well; Edgewood, settled
16 in the 1840s, boasts the Edgewood Heritage Park Museum, a facility
17 dedicated to the preservation of rural cultural and architectural
18 history; and

19 WHEREAS, Edom, established in 1856, is one of the oldest
20 towns in the county, and its past is highlighted by 10 state
21 historical markers, many of them researched by members of the Edom
22 Historical Society; the residents of this small community also give
23 hearty support to an active civic theater; and

24 WHEREAS, Fruit cultivation prompted the naming of Fruitvale,

1 where a nursery operated as early as the 1870s; several generations
2 in this century-old town have treasured the Randall Store, a local
3 institution since 1910; and

4 WHEREAS, Grand Saline served as the first Van Zandt County
5 seat and was named a Main Street City in 2004; originally called
6 Jordan's Saline, it takes its name from an immense dome of pure salt
7 lying beneath the city; more than a mile and a half wide and 20,000
8 feet thick, the deposit is presently mined by Morton Salt Company;
9 the city celebrates this important industry with an annual Salt
10 Festival and the Salt Palace Museum, a unique structure built with
11 rock salt crystal; those exploring Grand Saline can also stop by the
12 historical marker that commemorates native son Wiley Post, the
13 renowned pioneer aviator, and visit the new Veterans Memorial Wall
14 Park; and

15 WHEREAS, Van, established in 1891, remained a quiet farming
16 community until 1929, when the discovery of oil nearby transformed
17 the village into a boomtown; the Van Area Oil and Historical Museum
18 recaptures the excitement of that frenetic time and commemorates
19 the discovery with an annual Oil Festival; and

20 WHEREAS, Wills Point, settled in 1873 and originally known as
21 Iola, was renamed for William Wills, whose cabin served as a
22 stopping place for those traveling between Shreveport and Dallas;
23 the Wills cabin still stands, as does the Texas and Pacific Railroad
24 depot, which houses the Historical Society Museum; Wills Point,
25 which is officially the Bluebird Capital of Texas, hosts the annual
26 Bluebird Festival; and

27 WHEREAS, Ben Wheeler, surrounded by natural springs and rich

1 farmland, was named for Van Zandt County's first mail carrier,
2 Benjamin R. Wheeler, in 1876; and

3 WHEREAS, Martins Mill got its name from Dan R. Martin's
4 gristmill; established in 1880, the community survived destruction
5 by tornadoes and fires and today is home to one of the largest
6 dairies in East Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, Major events in the county include the Texas State
8 Bluegrass Festival, the Edom Arts Fair, and the Van Zandt County
9 Relay for Life; for the outdoor enthusiast, the Neches and Sabine
10 Rivers, Purtis Creek State Park, and Lake Tawakoni State Park offer
11 ample opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and camping;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The home of more than 50,000 people, Van Zandt
14 County relies on tourism, oil, and agribusiness; the area is a major
15 producer of hay, blueberries, sweet potatoes, and nursery crops, in
16 addition to cattle, horses, hogs, and dairy products; and

17 WHEREAS, The citizens of Van Zandt County take justifiable
18 pride in the hard work and ready cooperation that have made their
19 county strong, and it is a pleasure to pay tribute to their many
20 contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 14, 2007, as Van Zandt County
23 Day at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to those Van
24 Zandt residents here today for an informative and memorable visit
25 to Austin.