

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Garden of Eden Neighborhood Association in
2 Tarrant County was the Grand Prize winner of the 2006 Neighborhood
3 of the Year competition, sponsored by the nonprofit organization
4 Neighborhoods, USA; and

5 WHEREAS, Though less than three years old at the time, this
6 dynamic organization also collected a first-place award in the
7 Social Revitalization--Single Neighborhood category at the
8 Neighborhoods, USA, annual conference; both awards were conferred
9 in recognition of the association's outstanding project, a
10 three-day neighborhood reunion that brought together more than 200
11 individuals, some of whom hadn't seen each other in 40 years; while
12 celebrating and rededicating the land on which their families had
13 lived for more than a century and a half, the reunion also raised
14 funds for a planned neighborhood museum; and

15 WHEREAS, The Garden of Eden neighborhood is situated on the
16 site of Birdville, the earliest settlement in Tarrant County;
17 today, residents of this historic neighborhood claim ties to the
18 Cheney/Loyd/Sanders families, with roots in the area going back to
19 the 1840s; Major Cheney, who inherited 300 acres of land there in
20 the later 1800s, married Malinda Loyd in 1881; she also came from a
21 family of substantial Tarrant County landowners and was noted as
22 living in the Garden of Eden in the 1860 census, when she was seven
23 years old; approximately 250 of Malinda and Major Cheney's
24 descendents still live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and some 15 to

1 20 of them reside on Carson Street, the heart of the Garden of Eden
2 neighborhood; and

3 WHEREAS, When a 2004 zoning change threatened to make part of
4 Carson Street a light-industrial area, residents succeeded in
5 having the zoning designated "single family"; at the same time,
6 they formed the Garden of Eden Neighborhood Association to
7 represent the Garden of Eden and the Joe Louis Addition; members of
8 the association chose as their motto "Neighborhood DNA--Defining
9 Our Neighborhood's Assets"; and

10 WHEREAS, The Garden of Eden NA has advocated for
11 infrastructure repairs and environmental causes, created a
12 newsletter, undertaken a voter registration drive, and collected
13 cell phones for victims of domestic violence; the association has
14 also formed a nonprofit organization, the Carson Street Historic
15 Preservation Group, to build alliances with businesses and
16 government agencies and develop residential properties; and

17 WHEREAS, One of the neighborhood's most ambitious projects is
18 the creation of an agricultural museum that will help Metroplex
19 schoolchildren gain an understanding of what life was once like on
20 area farms; among the museum's amenities will be a library, art
21 gallery, nature trail, and bird sanctuary; and

22 WHEREAS, Since its founding, the Garden of Eden NA has
23 collected a host of accolades; the City of Fort Worth, the Fort
24 Worth League of Neighborhood Associations, and the Fort Worth
25 Neighborhood Education Center jointly named it the Neighborhood of
26 the Year in 2004 and the following year conferred on it the Spirit
27 of Fort Worth Award; in 2005, the City of Fort Worth also designated

1 Carson Street as the first African American historical and cultural
2 district in Tarrant County, a recognition that subsequently helped
3 earn the Garden of Eden NA a Citation of Merit from the Historic
4 Fort Worth, Inc., Board of Directors; and

5 WHEREAS, The far-reaching endeavors undertaken by the Garden
6 of Eden Neighborhood Association are considered a model for
7 preservation efforts in other historic African American
8 communities, and the members of that association are to be
9 commended for their exceptional stewardship of a heritage rich in
10 tradition, achievement, and public service; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate the Garden of Eden Neighborhood
13 Association on its receipt of the 2006 Grand Prize as Neighborhood
14 of the Year from Neighborhoods, USA, and extend to all those
15 affiliated with the association sincere best wishes for continued
16 success; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the Garden of Eden Neighborhood Association as an
19 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Veasey

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

H.R. No. 170

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 170 was adopted by the House on
February 22, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House