

By: Farabee

H.R. No. 477

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The historic town of Burkburnett celebrates the
2 centennial of its founding in 2007; and

3 WHEREAS, Originally part of the vast Four Sixes Ranch of
4 cattleman Samuel Burk Burnett, the land of the town then known as
5 Nesterville was sold to Joseph A. Kemp and Frank Kell of the Red
6 River Land Company; on June 6, 1907, they began to auction lots at
7 the townsite and opened a post office named Burkburnett; its name
8 was reportedly suggested by President Theodore Roosevelt, to honor
9 his friend and hunting companion, Mr. Burk Burnett; and

10 WHEREAS, That same year the railway came to the region, and by
11 1915, 19 trains a day ran to Burkburnett; by 1912 the town had a
12 bank, a hotel, and a newspaper; the economy was bolstered by two
13 cotton gins; and

14 WHEREAS, Oil was found for the first time on July 1, 1912, at
15 the Schmoker No. 1 well, but it was in 1918 when one of the greatest
16 oil booms in American history began with the S. L. Fowler Wildcat
17 No. 1 well; by the end of that year, the Burkburnett oil field was
18 producing 7,500 barrels a day, and 20,000 people had poured into the
19 town; and

20 WHEREAS, Men from around the world, including many veterans
21 of World War I, came to strike it rich, sleeping on porches or in
22 haylofts; 19 refineries opened locally; a story about the wild days
23 of the boom, "A Lady Comes to Burkburnett" by James Edward Grant,
24 became the inspiration for the 1940 film *Boom Town*, starring Clark

1 Gable and Spencer Tracy; and

2 WHEREAS, Today Burkburnett thrives with farming and
3 ranching, while local industries manufacture chemical products,
4 plastics, and machinery; while celebrating its past with the
5 restored Katy Depot and the Felty Outdoor Oil Museum, this
6 progressive Texas town looks forward to the next 100 years; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate the city of Burkburnett on its
10 centennial and extend best wishes for its continued development and
11 prosperity; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the citizens of Burkburnett as a token of the high
14 regard of the Texas House of Representatives.