

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 503

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A delegation of proud citizens of Van Zandt County
2 is visiting the State Capitol to celebrate Van Zandt County Day on
3 March 13, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Encompassing blackland prairie terrain and rolling
5 hills, scenic Van Zandt County was first populated by the Caddo and
6 Cherokee tribes; after the defeat of the Cherokee at the Battle of
7 the Neches in 1839, the area was opened to nonnative settlers; the
8 county was officially established in 1848 and named for Republic of
9 Texas leader Isaac Van Zandt; and

10 WHEREAS, John Jordan began the county's long history in the
11 salt trade in 1845, when he founded his salt extraction business at
12 Jordan's Saline, which later became Grand Saline; by the end of the
13 19th century, ranching and livestock farming were also well
14 established in the county, and the discovery of oil near Van in 1929
15 further bolstered the county's fortunes; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, oil and ranching continue to sustain Van
17 Zandt County, and it is a major producer of hay, sweet potatoes,
18 blueberries, and nursery crops; salt production is also part of the
19 modern economy; the Morton Salt mine in Grand Saline extends over 60
20 acres and reaches a depth of 700 feet, holding enough salt to supply
21 the world for 20,000 years; and

22 WHEREAS, Many fascinating attractions highlight the county's
23 rich history and heritage; the only building in North America built
24 entirely out of rock salt, the Salt Palace in Grand Saline serves as

1 a museum that commemorates the salt industry in Texas, the history
2 of the town, and the life of famous aviator and Grand Saline native
3 Wiley Post; the Edgewood Heritage Park Historical Museum features
4 14 restored buildings that evoke rural life in northeastern Texas;
5 in Wills Point, the Depot Museum displays a fine collection of
6 vintage clothing, historical farming implements, and railroad
7 memorabilia; and

8 WHEREAS, Adding to the county's allure are a variety of
9 special events; First Monday Trade Days in Canton, the county seat,
10 is an enormous flea market where every month 300 acres of antiques
11 and arts and crafts draw huge crowds; the annual Grand Saline Salt
12 Festival takes place in late May and early June and includes nightly
13 street dancing, a rodeo, and an antique tractor show; every April,
14 the Bluebird Festival is held in Wills Point and features quilt
15 displays, a train exhibition, and the Little Miss Bluebird pageant;
16 year round, the county's natural beauty is an attraction in itself,
17 with Lake Tawakoni being an especially popular destination for its
18 fishing, boating, and camping opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, Historic and beautiful (and salty), Van Zandt County
20 is home to 50,000 industrious residents who can take justifiable
21 pride in their invaluable contribution to the culture, economy, and
22 traditions of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize March 13, 2007, as Van Zandt County
25 Day at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to the
26 visitors from that county for a memorable stay in Austin.