

By: O'Day

H.R. No. 605

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Pearland are gathering in Austin
2 to celebrate Pearland Day at the State Capitol on February 28, 2007;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Situated on the alluvial lowlands of Brazoria
5 County, Pearland stands at the center of a region traversed by
6 Native Americans and such famous historical figures as Cabeza de
7 Vaca, Cavelier de La Salle, and Stephen F. Austin; and

8 WHEREAS, Founded in 1882 as a siding switch on the Gulf,
9 Colorado, and Sante Fe Railroad, the site was originally called
10 Mark Belt after the man whose house served as a local post office;
11 in the mid-1890s the Southern Homestead Company constructed the
12 town's first building, a rail depot, and the community was renamed
13 Pearland because of the abundance of pear trees in the vicinity; the
14 depot was the town's only link to the outside world and the center
15 of town life; the combination freight and passenger train known as
16 the "Bobby Train" was the only way for citizens of Pearland to
17 travel back and forth to Houston; and

18 WHEREAS, The Galveston hurricane of 1900 destroyed
19 Pearland's fruit orchards, but the region rebounded and was
20 promoted only 10 years later by the Allison-Richey Suburban Garden
21 Company as an "agricultural Eden" where fruit could be raised on a
22 commercial scale; and

23 WHEREAS, From the mid-1960s to the present, Pearland has
24 grown from a population of 1,497 to 80,000, making it one of the

1 fastest growing cities on the Gulf Coast; the life of the city is
2 enriched with such annual events as the Winterfest in January and
3 the Silverlake Sprint Triathlon every May; and

4 WHEREAS, With the original railway depot still standing as a
5 reminder of its colorful past, Pearland looks forward to an even
6 more dynamic future, and it is appropriate to take this opportunity
7 to honor it; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2007, as Pearland Day at
10 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes
11 for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.