

By: Heflin

H.R. No. 635

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Cotton has ranked as one of the most important crops
2 in Texas for a century and a half, and its significance was formally
3 recognized in 1997 by the 75th Legislature, which named it the
4 official fiber and fabric of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Introduced to Texas by Spanish missionaries, cotton
6 soared in production between 1850 and 1900, when it reached more
7 than 3.4 million bales; contributing to the expansion were the
8 opening of new lands for cultivation, the invention of barbed wire,
9 and the extension of the railroad; cultivation on the Blackland
10 Prairie of Central Texas was also spurred by the development of a
11 plow that could break the heavy soil there and by the influx of
12 thousands of immigrants, both from the Deep South and from Europe;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has been the scene of several
15 major innovations in the cotton industry; Robert S. Munger, who
16 became a leading designer of ginning equipment, developed an
17 automated system ginning process in Mexia in 1884, and in 1980 the
18 country's first high-volume instrument cotton-classing office
19 opened in Lamesa; and

20 WHEREAS, Evolution of the industry within the state has seen
21 the center of cotton cultivation shift from East and Central Texas
22 to the High Plains and South Texas, where the use of fertilizer and
23 irrigation has promoted large yields; and

24 WHEREAS, In past years, approximately a quarter of all the

1 cotton harvested in the United States has been grown in Texas, and
2 the state usually ranks first among all the states in cotton
3 production; since 1997, the annual cotton crop in Texas has
4 averaged 5.4 million bales, and in 2005, Texas upland cotton and
5 pima lint cotton were valued at \$1.6 billion and Texas cottonseed at
6 \$255.2 million; and

7 WHEREAS, With improved seed cotton varieties, along with the
8 recent success of the boll weevil eradication program in Texas,
9 production in 2005 of 8.5 million bales of cotton on 5.6 million
10 acres far exceeded the previous production record of 5.6 million
11 bales on 5.4 million acres in 2004, allowing the state to account
12 for 35.5 percent of the total U.S. production; and

13 WHEREAS, Much of the Texas cotton crop is shipped abroad,
14 with Mexico, Central America, and Asian countries figuring among
15 the largest buyers; and

16 WHEREAS, The history of Texas cannot be told without taking
17 into account the enormous role that cotton has played in the
18 development of the state and in the lives of so many of its people,
19 and the crop continues to provide the livelihood of thousands of
20 Texans; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 6, 2007, as Cotton Day at the
23 State Capitol and extend to all those associated with the industry
24 and who are present here today a warm welcome and sincere best
25 wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.