

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 840

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2007 marks the 150th anniversary of the
2 Edom Cemetery, one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Van Zandt
3 County; and

4 WHEREAS, According to tradition, the first individual to be
5 buried in the cemetery was William Featherston, who had recently
6 arrived in the area with his family when he died in 1857; at that
7 time, the property surrounding the site of Mr. Featherston's burial
8 was owned by James Coltharp and John J. Snider; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the years, the cemetery has grown considerably
10 through the purchase and donation of land; today it embraces 10
11 sections and contains more than 2,000 marked graves, in addition to
12 a number of unidentified grave sites; and

13 WHEREAS, The Edom Cemetery serves as the final resting place
14 for some of the county's earliest settlers and their descendants;
15 in addition to its links with 19th century pioneers, the cemetery is
16 the burial ground for nearly 150 individuals who served in the
17 military, including 31 Confederate veterans of the Civil War, 22
18 veterans of World War I, and 55 veterans of World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, For approximately a century, before the hiring of a
20 caretaker, the cemetery was maintained by families who would get
21 together on a Saturday in July to clean the grounds; the work day
22 doubled as an occasion for a picnic and provided a welcome chance to
23 visit with friends and relatives; although the upkeep of the
24 cemetery has now been contracted out, the reunion continues to be

1 held and now takes place in May; a large open-air pavilion,
2 constructed in 1971, offers shelter for such gatherings; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1976, individuals concerned about protecting the
4 cemetery established the Edom Cemetery Association, and 10 years
5 later that group published a compilation of the existing grave
6 markers and tombstones; the cemetery received a Texas State
7 Historical Marker in 1986, and in 1998 a memorial plaque was erected
8 in honor of Confederate veterans known to be buried there; and

9 WHEREAS, Like other historic Texas burial grounds, the Edom
10 Cemetery is an irreplaceable cultural resource, and this notable
11 milestone in its history is indeed worthy of recognition; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Edom
15 Cemetery and extend to the Edom Cemetery Association sincere
16 appreciation for its dedication to preserving the heritage of the
17 Lone Star State; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.