

By: Creighton

H.R. No. 876

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The opening of the Montgomery County Fair and Rodeo  
2 in Conroe on March 23 marks the 50th anniversary of this important  
3 Southeast Texas event, and an impressive milestone for the  
4 Montgomery County Fair Association; and

5           WHEREAS, This highly anticipated annual affair began half a  
6 century ago when the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce held its  
7 first "Field Day" at the Browder Brothers Dairy Farm east of Willis;  
8 rotating between various ranches and farms, usually literally in  
9 someone's open field, subsequent Field Days became more elaborate  
10 as various events were added; and

11           WHEREAS, By the early 1960s, the Field Day began to resemble  
12 the current county fair and was held at Candy Cane Park Pavilion;  
13 the event's livestock show and auction sale had outgrown the  
14 pavilion by 1965, and the auction sale came to be held at the Cow  
15 Palace auction barn east of Conroe; by 1967 even the Cow Palace was  
16 too small for the expanding Junior Livestock Show; the Montgomery  
17 County Fairgrounds became the new site for the event in 1968; and

18           WHEREAS, During these years a number of new events were added  
19 to the fair: the first grand champion steer was selected in 1964 and  
20 sold for \$661.30; rodeo performances began in 1973; Miss Lavina  
21 Westbrook was crowned as the first Montgomery County Fair Queen in  
22 1975; and seven teams competed in the first barbecue cook-off in  
23 1976; and

24           WHEREAS, Officially incorporated as the Montgomery County

1 Fair in 1979, the event continues to thrive; the fair's offices were  
2 moved to the fairground in 1985, and the fair association has added  
3 an exhibit building and two livestock barns; in 2001 the fair's  
4 rodeo was the first major event to be held at the new Lone Star Expo  
5 Center; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past 25 years, the livestock auction has  
7 brought in \$9,343,275 and since 1993 the fair's scholarship program  
8 has disbursed over \$927,000 to graduating seniors from six public  
9 school districts in Montgomery County; and

10 WHEREAS, With an expected attendance of 80,000, about 1,000  
11 exhibitors will show at the fair this year and another 1,000 will  
12 show in the Junior Non-Livestock Division; 120 teams will compete  
13 in the barbecue cook-off championship; and

14 WHEREAS, Under the direction of President Pat Davis and the  
15 hardworking members of the Montgomery County Fair Association, the  
16 Montgomery County Fair and Rodeo is a classic Texas tradition that  
17 looks toward an even brighter future, as it continues to provide the  
18 citizens of Montgomery County with an annual festival that is  
19 informative, rewarding, and entertaining; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby congratulate the Montgomery County Fair  
22 Association on the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery County Fair  
23 and Rodeo and extend best wishes for the fair's continued success;  
24 and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for the Montgomery County Fair Association as an  
27 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.