

By: Eiland

H.R. No. 987

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2007 marks the second anniversary of the  
2 devastating explosion at the BP Texas City refinery, and this  
3 solemn occasion provides an opportunity to remember the victims of  
4 that tragic incident; and

5           WHEREAS, In the early afternoon of March 23, 2005, a geyser of  
6 highly flammable liquid and vapor erupted from a blowdown drum at  
7 the refinery; ignited by an idling pickup truck, the material  
8 exploded, and workers who had been making their way through a  
9 typical Wednesday were suddenly caught up in a deadly disaster; and

10           WHEREAS, In that inferno of heat and smoke, 15 men and women  
11 lost their lives, and 180 more were injured; countless families  
12 along the Gulf Coast were personally touched by the incident, and  
13 citizens throughout Texas and the rest of the country wondered how  
14 an accident of this magnitude had taken place; and

15           WHEREAS, Over the two years that have elapsed since that  
16 fateful afternoon, investigations have been launched by the U.S.  
17 Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board and by an  
18 independent panel of experts convened by BP; their findings have  
19 highlighted a range of safety problems that led to the explosion,  
20 and new industry practices and state legislation have been proposed  
21 to address those issues; a measure popularly known as the "Remember  
22 the 15 Bill" has been introduced in the 80th Texas Legislature, and  
23 this effort was initiated by Eva Rowe, who lost both of her parents  
24 in the disaster; and

1           WHEREAS, The catastrophic turn of events that transpired on  
2 that March day are a sobering reminder of the hazards that can exist  
3 in the workplaces of the Lone Star State, and the immense sadness  
4 and suffering endured by the victims and their loved ones are cause  
5 for meaningful reflection by all Texans; now, therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the victims of the BP Texas City  
8 refinery explosion and extend condolences to those affected by this  
9 tragic event; and, be it further

10          RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for the families of the victims and that when the Texas  
12 House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
13 those killed in the BP Texas City disaster.