

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 1502

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During National Library Week, April 15-21, 2007, and
2 on National Library Workers Day on April 17, citizens across the
3 nation are joining together with the American Library Association
4 to celebrate the contributions of libraries in our schools and
5 communities as well as the efforts of those trained professionals
6 who assist patrons; and

7 WHEREAS, Public, academic, and specialized libraries serve a
8 vital function in their communities and provide millions of people
9 with the knowledge and information they need to live, learn, and
10 work in the 21st century; libraries also serve as gathering places
11 for people of all ages, ethnicities, and economic means, including
12 students who come to learn research skills and to study together,
13 parents who introduce children to their first books, seniors who
14 keep in touch with family across the country using free Internet
15 access, and job seekers who get connected with important resources
16 and employment opportunities; and

17 WHEREAS, While some predicted the age of technology would
18 render libraries obsolete, it has instead extended their reach
19 through the free use of computers and the continuously expanding
20 universe of the Internet; in fact, for those many individuals who do
21 not have computers at home, library computers fill an important
22 function, narrowing the "digital divide" and providing an equity of
23 access that prevents potential disenfranchisement; and

24 WHEREAS, Library use is up nationwide and in 2006 more than

1 two billion items were checked out and libraries served nearly 1.8
2 billion visitors; in 2005, in Texas alone, library patrons borrowed
3 some 100 million items from public libraries, and received
4 assistance with nearly 24 million reference questions; in addition,
5 research suggests that students who attend schools with good
6 libraries perform better on standardized tests; and

7 WHEREAS, Texans and Texas libraries further benefit from the
8 resources and services provided by the Texas State Library and
9 Archives Commission and its knowledgeable staff; and

10 WHEREAS, Libraries, free and open to all, provide
11 opportunities for lifelong learning to those who take advantage of
12 their resources, and it is indeed fitting that these essential
13 institutions and their dedicated workers be honored; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize April 15 through April 21, 2007, as
17 National Library Week and April 17, 2007, as National Library
18 Workers Day and encourage all Texans to visit their local
19 libraries.