

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.R. No. 1931

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Elise Amalie Tvede Waerenskjold, an early Texas  
2 pioneer, is today remembered on both sides of the Atlantic for her  
3 role in fostering Norwegian emigration to the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in 1815 to Niels Seierslov Tvede, a Lutheran  
5 minister, and his wife, Johanne, Elise Tvede was educated at home by  
6 private tutors; at the age of 19 she embarked on a teaching career,  
7 although female schoolteachers were then rare in Norway; and

8           WHEREAS, A strong-willed and independent thinker throughout  
9 her life, Ms. Tvede promoted the causes of temperance, women's  
10 rights, and the abolition of slavery; her articles brought her to  
11 the attention of Johan Reinert Reiersen, who in 1846 appointed her  
12 as editor of *Norway and America*, a magazine promoting emigration to  
13 America; and

14           WHEREAS, Ms. Tvede emigrated to America herself the following  
15 year and joined a colony of Norwegians established by Mr. Reiersen  
16 in Henderson County; in 1848 she married Wilhelm Waerenskjold, a  
17 member of the party with which she had traveled to Texas; the couple  
18 settled on a square mile of land in Van Zandt County, at Four Mile  
19 Prairie, in a second colony established by Mr. Reiersen; and

20           WHEREAS, Elise Waerenskjold and her husband took an active  
21 part in the life of the Norwegian community and in the affairs of  
22 Four Mile Prairie Lutheran Church, which still serves the  
23 surrounding area; and

24           WHEREAS, This indomitable woman lived at Four Mile Prairie

1 for 46 years, during which time she farmed, sold garden seeds,  
2 books, and magazine subscriptions, and taught school; despite the  
3 hardships of frontier life, she also continued to write articles  
4 encouraging emigration to America, especially to Texas; many of her  
5 articles described the daily life of immigrant Norwegian families  
6 and constitute an invaluable source of information about this  
7 notable group of Texans; and

8 WHEREAS, Elise Waerenskjold's native land is erecting a  
9 monument in her honor at the Western Norway Emigration Center at  
10 Sletta, Norway, on July 7, 2007; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby join in commemorating the life of Elise Amalie  
13 Tvede Waerenskjold and the contributions that she and her fellow  
14 Norwegians made to the development of the Lone Star State; and, be  
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for presentation to the Western Norway Emigration Center  
18 on the occasion of the ceremony honoring Elise Waerenskjold.