

By: Bolton

H.R. No. 1959

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The national effort to beautify the country's
2 highways began in earnest with Lady Bird Johnson, wife of President
3 Lyndon B. Johnson; thanks to her strong leadership and initiative,
4 the 89th United States Congress passed the Highway Beautification
5 Act of 1965; and

6 WHEREAS, Lady Bird Johnson's vision of a more beautiful
7 America was further advanced by the passage of the federal Surface
8 Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act (STURAA) in
9 1987; sponsored by U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, the act
10 included the requirement that one-quarter of one percent of federal
11 funds expended for highway system landscaping must be used to plant
12 wildflowers; and

13 WHEREAS, This dedication of federal highway funds for
14 wildflower plantings has made it possible for states to plant
15 wildflowers on thousands of acres of highway rights-of-way; in
16 addition to being an important part of each region's identity,
17 these native plants are adapted to area rainfall conditions and
18 generally require less maintenance than nonnative species; and

19 WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Transportation has taken
20 full advantage of STURAA and Lady Bird Johnson's leadership on
21 roadside beautification to create inspiring wildflower landscapes
22 along Texas highways and allow millions of Texans to enjoy the
23 natural beauty of native plants and gain an appreciation for the
24 state's natural heritage; and

1 WHEREAS, Helping state and county transportation departments
2 utilize native plants and wildflowers along highway roadsides was
3 also a top priority in 1982 when Lady Bird Johnson founded the
4 organization now known as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
5 at The University of Texas at Austin; and

6 WHEREAS, Twenty-five years later, the Lady Bird Johnson
7 Wildflower Center remains a leader in promoting the use of native
8 plants and wildflowers for highway system landscaping, and it is
9 fitting that the center's 25th anniversary coincides with the 20th
10 anniversary of STURAA; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize the 20th anniversary of the federal
13 Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act and
14 the 25th anniversary of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at
15 The University of Texas at Austin; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives also recognize
17 Lady Bird Johnson's lasting contributions to the beauty and
18 ecological health of highway roadsides in the state and nation and
19 the Texas Department of Transportation's national leadership in
20 integrating wildflower plantings into state highway system
21 projects; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
23 further collaboration between the Texas Department of
24 Transportation and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to
25 create one or more demonstration roadside wildflower projects,
26 raise awareness about Texas wildflowers, and enhance state efforts
27 to showcase the beauty and ecological importance of Texas

1 wildflowers; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
3 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the
4 executive directors of the Texas Department of Transportation and
5 the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas
6 at Austin.