

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 2140

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Richards are gathering to
2 celebrate the 100th anniversary of their town with a picnic and ice
3 cream social on May 26, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in the rolling countryside of eastern
5 Grimes County, the region around Richards was originally inhabited
6 by the Bidai tribe; Anglo-American settlers lived in the area from
7 the 1830s, but the town itself was not founded until the arrival of
8 the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railroad in the early 20th century;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Named for Fairfield banker W. E. Richards, organizer
11 of the Valley Route and Townsite Loan Company, the town was founded
12 in 1907 on land from the former Scott plantation, and the town's
13 first house was the plantation's former slave quarters; residents
14 of nearby Fairview and Longstreet moved entire homes and businesses
15 on log rollers to the new site alongside the railroad, and in true
16 Texas fashion, the founding of the town was celebrated with a
17 barbecue; and

18 WHEREAS, Richards was a bustling little town with a railroad
19 depot, a cotton gin, a post office, a bank, a drugstore, a hotel, a
20 barbershop, several general stores, and a weekly newspaper, the
21 Richards *Rustler*, until the railroad discontinued service and
22 businesses closed; and

23 WHEREAS, Today Richards is growing again, with many new
24 neighbors moving from the Houston area; the old drugstore sells

1 antiques, the former bank is the town's civic center, and the
2 Richards Independent School District provides a fine education for
3 children from three counties; and

4 WHEREAS, Even as they celebrate their colorful history, the
5 residents of Richards look forward to a bright future, and it is
6 fitting to pay tribute to their town's first 100 years; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate the citizens of Richards on the
10 town's centennial and extend best wishes to them for an enjoyable
11 and memorable birthday celebration; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the town of Richards as an expression of high regard by
14 the Texas House of Representatives.