

By: King of Zavala

H.R. No. 2387

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Crystal City are joining together
2 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their city in November 2007;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Situated on the South Texas plain, Crystal City was
5 created when two developers, Carl F. Groos and E. J. Buckingham,
6 purchased the 96,000-acre Cross S Ranch in 1905 and sold off the
7 property in 1907 as 10-acre farms; each buyer also received a town
8 lot in the planned community of Crystal City; and

9 WHEREAS, Named after the clear artesian water that made
10 agriculture possible in the region, Crystal City was linked to the
11 railroad in 1911 and quickly became a major center for the growing
12 and distribution of winter vegetables; Bermuda onions were the
13 mainstay at first, but with the introduction of spinach in 1917,
14 Crystal City soon became the self-proclaimed Spinach Capital of the
15 World; and

16 WHEREAS, The town was named the county seat of Zavala County
17 in 1928; the first Spinach Festival was held in 1936, and in 1937,
18 with the blessing of Popeye creator E. C. Segar, the city erected a
19 statue of Popeye the Sailor Man, the cartoon character known for his
20 consumption of spinach; and

21 WHEREAS, Crystal City was the site of an internment camp for
22 Japanese Americans and others during World War II; the camp was
23 converted to low-income housing after the war, and in 1945 a
24 vegetable canning factory was built near the town; during the 1960s

1 the Mexican American majority in the town asserted their political
2 rights, and their actions led to the formation of the Raza Unida
3 party; and

4 WHEREAS, Today the statue of Popeye still stands in front of
5 City Hall, and the city remains a center for the growing and
6 packaging of spinach, onions, carrots, tomatoes, peppers,
7 watermelons, and cantaloupes, as well as a center for oil-field
8 services; and

9 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy fishing on the
10 nearby Nueces, Leona, and Frio Rivers, as well as hunting for such
11 game as deer, wild hog, turkey, dove, and javelina; during the
12 second week of November the annual Spinach Festival draws 50,000
13 people and offers such attractions as a spinach cook-off, a parade,
14 a car show, and live Tejano performances; and

15 WHEREAS, Celebrating its past as it looks forward to a bright
16 future, Crystal City contributes greatly to the life of the Lone
17 Star State, and it is fitting to recognize its century of
18 achievement; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate the residents of Crystal City on
21 the town's 100th anniversary and extend to them best wishes for a
22 fine centennial celebration; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Crystal City as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.