

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 2898

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After six years of fund-raising and hard work, the
2 Victoria County Master Gardener Association is celebrating the
3 grand opening of the Victoria Educational Gardens (VEG) Expansion
4 Project at the Victoria Regional Airport on June 10, 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, The Texas Master Gardener program forms part of
6 Texas Cooperative Extension and presently boasts the involvement of
7 more than 5,000 Master Gardeners in 115 county Master Gardener
8 organizations; the program requires individuals to finish at least
9 50 hours of formal training and 50 hours of volunteer service in
10 order to be accredited as a Texas Master Gardener; these gardeners
11 contribute to their community by holding classes and
12 demonstrations, providing speakers for events, and maintaining
13 community gardens; they also volunteer at their local extension
14 office to answer the questions of homeowners who phone in; and

15 WHEREAS, Founded in 1997 with 21 volunteers, the Victoria
16 County Master Gardener Association has grown to embrace 109 active
17 Master Gardeners; the events and programs offered by the group
18 include the Annual Garden Tour, the Garden Expo, Junior Master
19 Gardener classes and garden symposiums; the association and its
20 members have received many statewide awards since 1998, including
21 the first-place Master Gardener title in 2003 and a first-place win
22 for the VEG Tours in 2005; and

23 WHEREAS, The Victoria County Master Gardeners broke ground
24 for the Victoria Educational Gardens in 2001, on land surrounding

1 the old Foster Field Officers' Club at Victoria Regional Airport,
2 and they completed the first stage of the project in 2003; and

3 WHEREAS, Since then, the Victoria County Master Gardeners
4 have raised \$250,000 to finance further development of the gardens,
5 and they have volunteered 10,000 hours on such work as installing
6 irrigation and retaining walls, tilling in compost, and planting
7 flowers and grasses; the expanded VEG now includes 19 mini-gardens,
8 a 60-foot arbor, a teahouse gazebo, paved walkways, a meditation
9 garden, and a wheelchair-accessible labyrinth; and

10 WHEREAS, An outstanding community resource, the Victoria
11 Educational Gardens offer area residents an exceptional
12 opportunity to advance their knowledge of horticulture and to enjoy
13 the beauty of nature, and it is indeed fitting that the Victoria
14 County Master Gardeners be commended for their gift of this
15 exquisite treasure to their fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the Victoria County Master
18 Gardener Association on the grand opening of the Victoria
19 Educational Gardens Expansion Project and extend to the association
20 and its members sincere best wishes for continued success in all
21 their endeavors; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for the Victoria County Master Gardeners as an expression
24 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.