

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 353

**WHEREAS**, Proud citizens of Pearland are gathering in Austin to celebrate Pearland Day at the State Capitol on February 28, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, Situated on the alluvial lowlands of Brazoria County, Pearland stands at the center of a region traversed by Native Americans and such famous historical figures as Cabeza de Vaca, Cavelier de La Salle, and Stephen F. Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1882 as a siding switch on the Gulf, Colorado, and Sante Fe Railroad, the site was originally called Mark Belt after the man whose house served as a local post office; in the mid-1890s the Southern Homestead Company constructed the town's first building, a rail depot, and the community was renamed Pearland because of the abundance of pear trees in the vicinity; the depot was the town's only link to the outside world and the center of town life; the combination freight and passenger train known as the "Bobby Train" was the only way for citizens of Pearland to travel back and forth to Houston; and

**WHEREAS**, The Galveston hurricane of 1900 destroyed Pearland's fruit orchards, but the region rebounded and was promoted only 10 years later by the Allison-Richey Suburban Garden Company as an "agricultural Eden" where fruit could be raised on a commercial scale; and

**WHEREAS**, From the mid-1960s to the present, Pearland has grown from a population of 1,497 to 80,000, making it one of the fastest growing cities on the Gulf Coast; the life of the city is enriched with such annual events as the Winterfest in January and the Silverlake Sprint Triathlon every May; and

**WHEREAS**, With the original railway depot still standing as a reminder of its colorful past, Pearland looks forward to an even more dynamic future, and it is appropriate to take this opportunity to honor it; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby recognize February 28, 2007, as Pearland Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate