

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 78

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Public-spirited citizens of Kilgore are gathering
2 in Austin on March 2 and 3, 2009, to celebrate Kilgore Days at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Present in the chamber on this occasion are
5 community leaders Mr. and Mrs. Sammy York, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
6 Plunk, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Coston, Theresa
7 Ferguson, Tammy Ritter, B. J. Owens, Amanda Nobles, Barbara
8 Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Kent Bryson, Gery Dillinger, Gene Keenon,
9 Dr. Charles Whiteside, Jeff Howell, Randy Brogoitti, Mr. and Mrs.
10 Harvey McClendon, and Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Bell; and

11 WHEREAS, Set among the lush pinewoods of East Texas, Kilgore
12 was founded in 1872 along the International-Great Northern Railroad
13 and named after community leader Constantine Buckley "Buck"
14 Kilgore, a state senator and Confederate veteran; and

15 WHEREAS, Initially the town developed as a center for cotton
16 farming, and it thrived until the onset of the Great Depression,
17 when its population abruptly fell by half; the discovery of oil in
18 1930, however, turned the hard-pressed community into a lively
19 boomtown; within six years, Kilgore's population swelled from 500
20 to 12,000; at the peak of the boom, there were 1,100 oil wells
21 within the city limits; one downtown block, known as the "World's
22 Richest Acre," held the greatest concentration of oil derricks in
23 the world at the time; and

24 WHEREAS, Today Kilgore is an important center for both the

1 oil and high-tech industries, with such major employers as
2 Halliburton Energy Services, General Dynamics SATCOM Technologies,
3 Skeeter Products, and Exterran having a presence in the city; and

4 WHEREAS, Kilgore College is the educational and cultural hub
5 of the area; home to the Texas Shakespeare Festival and the famous
6 Kilgore Rangerettes, reputed to be the world's first women's
7 precision drill team, the campus is also host to the East Texas Oil
8 Museum, where the history of the oil boom of the 1930s is colorfully
9 re-created through exhibits and dioramas; another notable
10 attraction is the exciting new baseball franchise, the East Texas
11 Pump Jacks of the Texas Collegiate League, which played its
12 inaugural season in 2008; and

13 WHEREAS, The community has honored its colorful past with the
14 placement of 60 replica oil derricks throughout the town; each
15 holiday season, the derricks are decorated with Christmas lights
16 and stars, helping Kilgore to earn the title "City of Stars"; and

17 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they prepare to
18 meet the opportunities that lie ahead, the citizens of Kilgore are
19 justifiably proud of their community, and it is a privilege to honor
20 their contribution to the story of the Lone Star State; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby declare March 2 and 3, 2009, as Kilgore Days at the State
24 Capitol and extend best wishes to the visiting delegation for an
25 enjoyable and memorable stay in Austin.