

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.R. No. 539

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Athens are gathering in Austin on
2 February 25, 2009, to celebrate Athens Day at the State Capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, Athens was first incorporated in 1856, but steady
4 development began after it was reincorporated in 1901; agriculture
5 has long been an important element in the town's economy, and the
6 prominence of the black-eyed pea crop between the 1930s and 1970s
7 resulted in the town garnering the unofficial title of "black-eyed
8 pea capital of the world"; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the decades, this charming East Texas city
10 has seen significant growth, and today has a diverse economy that
11 includes industrial manufacturing and other businesses in addition
12 to farming and livestock ventures; education is a key element in the
13 town's productivity, with Trinity Valley Community College and the
14 area's other schools helping residents to prepare for the future;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Athens has been proclaimed the Original Home of the
17 Hamburger by the Texas Legislature in tribute to the role that city
18 resident Fletcher Davis played in the creation of this American
19 favorite; the town features many exciting annual events, including
20 the Athens Fiddlers Contest and Reunion, the Chamber of Commerce
21 PRCA Stampede Rodeo, the Athens Triathlon, the Smith MDA Benefit
22 Rodeo, and the Chamber of Commerce Business Exposition; and

23 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the city's
24 tourist attractions and cultural institutions; these include the

1 East Texas Arboretum, the Henderson County Historical Museum, the
2 Henderson County Performing Arts Center, the Cain Center, the
3 Henderson County Fairpark Complex, and the Texas Freshwater
4 Fisheries Center, which features 300,000 gallons of aquarium
5 exhibits and every major species of freshwater fish found in Texas;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, With its relaxed way of life and many attractive
8 features, Athens has much to offer retirees and has been recognized
9 as a Certified Retirement Community by the Texas Department of
10 Agriculture; and

11 WHEREAS, This lovely city continues to be one of the Lone Star
12 State's great assets and an outstanding place in which to live,
13 work, and raise a family, and it is indeed appropriate that the
14 citizens of Athens be given special recognition for their numerous
15 achievements and contributions; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2009, as Athens Day at
18 the State Capitol and join the citizens of that city in paying
19 tribute to their hometown.