

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 705

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Katy are gathering in Austin to  
2 celebrate Katy Day at the State Capitol on March 12, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, Situated on the coastal prairie among the grasslands  
4 and bayous, the community was originally known as Cane Island; it  
5 was first settled in the 1870s as a farming community, with  
6 residents primarily growing cotton, peanuts, and corn until 1901,  
7 when William Eule introduced rice farming; the town came to be  
8 called Katy, after the depot of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas  
9 Railroad (the MKT)--or perhaps after the wife of a saloonkeeper;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The discovery of natural gas in 1934 changed the  
12 fortunes of area residents, who profited from the size of the field  
13 and its close proximity to Houston's refineries; the city was  
14 incorporated in 1945 and today is an important rail and  
15 agricultural center; and

16 WHEREAS, The Katy Independent School District is one of the  
17 fastest-growing in the state; having completed 23 new campuses in  
18 the past decade, it now includes 31 elementary schools, 12 junior  
19 highs, 6 high schools, a career technology center, and an  
20 alternative high school; the district places a strong emphasis on  
21 technology, providing computers in each classroom and stationary  
22 and wireless labs in every school; student achievement on  
23 standardized tests consistently surpasses statewide levels, and 16  
24 Katy campuses have been designated as exemplary in the

1 accountability ratings compiled by the Texas Education Agency; and

2 WHEREAS, Several city attractions provide a window on the  
3 area's past, including the Katy Heritage Museum, the vintage  
4 buildings that make up Heritage Park, and the town's 1898 train  
5 depot that has been restored to house the MKT Museum; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the year, Katy hosts a number of popular  
7 events that draw locals and visitors alike; the Katy Independent  
8 School District FFA Livestock Show and Rodeo is held in February,  
9 the Folk Life Festival takes place in April, and the Rice Harvest  
10 Festival honors the city's agricultural traditions each October;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, For more than a century, Katy has been an  
13 outstanding place to live and work, and its citizens may take great  
14 pride in their contributions to the Lone Star State; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize March 12, 2009, as Katy Day at the  
18 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for  
19 an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.