

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 960

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille
2 and the release of the Louis Braille bicentennial silver dollar by
3 the U.S. Mint are being celebrated on March 26, 2009, as National
4 Braille Readers Are Leaders Day; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1809, Louis Braille invented the reading and
6 writing code for the blind that bears his name; it provides people
7 who are blind with the power of knowledge, expanding their
8 opportunities and equipping them with tools to be productive and
9 creative contributors to society; and

10 WHEREAS, Braille is used to represent the alphabets of most
11 written languages as well as scientific, mathematical, and musical
12 notation; despite recent technological innovations that have
13 improved access to information, Braille remains the most efficient,
14 versatile, and universal method of reading and writing for people
15 who are blind; and

16 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, Braille literacy in the United
17 States has declined in recent years, and only 10 percent of blind
18 children are learning to read and write in Braille; this figure is
19 especially alarming because 70 percent of blind people are
20 unemployed, while 85 percent of those who are employed use Braille;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Recognizing the importance of Braille literacy, the
23 U.S. Congress in 2006 authorized the striking of a U.S. silver
24 dollar to commemorate the bicentennial of Louis Braille's birth;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, In conjunction with this event, the National
3 Federation of the Blind has launched the national Braille Readers
4 Are Leaders campaign; funded by a portion of the sales of the
5 Braille coin, the campaign strives to promote awareness of Braille
6 and increase Braille instruction and the availability of Braille
7 reading materials; and

8 WHEREAS, Literacy in Braille brings expanded opportunities,
9 power, and enjoyment into the lives of people who are blind, and it
10 is most fitting to encourage efforts to increase Braille literacy;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 26, 2009, as National Braille
14 Readers Are Leaders Day and commemorate the release of the Louis
15 Braille bicentennial silver dollar.