

By: Cohen

H.R. No. 1033

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission has recognized the
2 Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery in Houston as a Historic Texas
3 Cemetery, and the membership is celebrating this honor with the
4 dedication of a historical marker on April 26, 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, The cemetery was established in 1844, and a decade
6 later, 22 local citizens founded Hebrew Congregation Beth Israel,
7 the first Jewish congregation in Texas; the Jewish population of
8 Houston grew dramatically, along with the city, in the 20th
9 century, and in order to meet the needs of its burgeoning
10 membership, Beth Israel constructed new synagogues in 1908, 1925,
11 and 1967; the latter facility, renovated and expanded in the early
12 21st century, continues to serve the congregation today; and

13 WHEREAS, Beth Israel marked a special milestone in 2004 with
14 the celebration of its sesquicentennial; the synagogue currently
15 serves more than 1,700 families and is led by Senior Rabbi David
16 Lyon; and

17 WHEREAS, The Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery is the resting
18 place for individuals who shaped the city in ways both great and
19 small, and the volunteers who have researched and documented this
20 burial ground and those who have supported them in that effort have
21 performed a truly valuable service; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of a Historic Texas
24 Cemetery marker at the Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery and extend

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1 to all those involved with this project sincere appreciation for
2 their commitment to preserving the heritage of the Lone Star State;
3 and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Congregation Beth Israel as an expression of high
6 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.