

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 1081

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 70th anniversary of Cal
2 Farley's Boys Ranch and the 60th anniversary of Cal Farley's
3 Girlstown, U.S.A., and staff and supporters of these worthy
4 organizations are visiting the State Capitol on this day to
5 commemorate these notable milestones; and

6 WHEREAS, A former semipro baseball player and a businessman,
7 Cal Farley was inspired to help youth after noticing them
8 congregated at the ballpark when they should have been in school; he
9 discovered that most of the youth came from broken homes, and he and
10 other men formed the Maverick Club and Kids, Inc., to provide them
11 with a sports program, as well as food, clothing, and medical
12 attention; and

13 WHEREAS, Concerned that many youth were still not getting the
14 help they needed, Mr. Farley dreamed of creating a place where
15 troubled boys could be given a second chance for a successful
16 future; in 1938, a local rancher donated 120 acres northwest of
17 Amarillo to the cause, and Mr. Farley began housing boys there the
18 following year; the original charter for Boys Ranch was filed by the
19 Texas secretary of state on March 14, 1939; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Farley promoted the ranch on his radio program,
21 the "Cal Farley Show," and listeners throughout the state became
22 supporters of Boys Ranch, which by 1947 had grown to include some
23 100 boys; before the end of the decade, abused and neglected girls
24 would also have a place to find success with the founding of

1 Girlstown, U.S.A., in 1949 by Amelia Anthony; located on land near
2 the community of Whiteface, Girlstown, U.S.A., became an affiliate
3 of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in 1987; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, Cal Farley's is one of America's largest
5 privately funded child and family service providers, offering
6 residential, educational, and community-based services at no cost
7 to the families of children in its care; guided by Christian values,
8 its programs are designed to strengthen families and support the
9 physical, emotional, and spiritual development of children; and

10 WHEREAS, Currently serving approximately 300 children on two
11 campuses, both Boys Ranch and Girlstown, U.S.A., feature cottages
12 where 10 to 12 children live with house parent couples providing
13 supervision, mentoring, and parenting; residents receive academic,
14 athletic, and extracurricular opportunities similar to those
15 offered at other Texas public schools, and qualified alumni earn
16 financial scholarships to college; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to its campuses, Cal Farley's operates
18 family resource centers in cities throughout Texas, including
19 Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, and Houston, with another opening in
20 San Antonio in 2009; these centers provide such direct services as
21 case management, life-skills coaching, family and parenting
22 programs, and referrals to other agencies; and

23 WHEREAS, A volunteer board of directors and dedicated
24 employees, including president and CEO Dan Adams, maintain the
25 highest standards of excellence in fulfilling the organization's
26 mission; in addition, the caring gifts of thousands of faithful
27 supporters, or "champions for children," ensure Cal Farley's

1 continued existence; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 8,000 boys and girls from every state in
3 the nation and a variety of cultural backgrounds have found hope and
4 opportunity at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown,
5 U.S.A., and it is indeed fitting to honor the proud legacy of Cal
6 Farley's on this significant occasion; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize March 26, 2009, as Cal Farley's Day at
9 the State Capitol and commemorate the 70th anniversary of Cal
10 Farley's Boys Ranch and the 60th anniversary of Cal Farley's
11 Girlstown, U.S.A.; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Cal Farley's as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.