

By: Straus

H.R. No. 1279

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, January 4, 2009, marked 200 years since the birth of
2 Louis Braille, a French scholar and inventor who opened vistas of
3 knowledge and bestowed the gift of literacy to blind people around
4 the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Blind from the age of three, Louis Braille desired
6 to experience life more fully and to improve the lives of those who
7 could not rely on vision; this passion led him to develop a tactile
8 alphabet that would allow the visually impaired to read and write;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Braille system of writing has enabled visually
11 impaired students to achieve independence and academic excellence,
12 and those who become proficient in its use are capable of reading at
13 speeds comparable to print readers; an estimated 80 percent of
14 employed Americans who are blind or visually impaired, including
15 lawyers, teachers, legislators, computer programmers, civil
16 servants, and physicians, are skilled in the use of Braille; and

17 WHEREAS, Because of its practicality and simple style, the
18 Braille system is accepted as the standard form of reading and
19 writing by the visually impaired, and the Braille Revival League of
20 Texas, an educational organization and an affiliate of the American
21 Council of the Blind of Texas, promotes the production, teaching,
22 and use of Braille as the primary medium of literacy for blind
23 people; and

24 WHEREAS, Effective communication is a life skill of

1 inestimable value, and Louis Braille's basic six-dot system has
2 greatly enhanced the education, employability, and independence of
3 Texans and all Americans who are blind and has provided a lifeline
4 for millions of people around the world; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Louis Braille during
7 this bicentennial year of his birth and recognize the Braille
8 Revival League of Texas for their work to promote the use of the
9 Braille system throughout the state.