

By: Geren

H.R. No. 1533

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Texas is widely known for the wealth of dinosaur  
2 fossils that have been found in the state; the remains of more than  
3 20 different species have been unearthed here, and a number of them  
4 represent important discoveries that have greatly aided scientists  
5 in their study of the prehistoric era; and

6           WHEREAS, The dinosaur Technosaurus is an especially notable  
7 example of the Lone Star State's ancient inhabitants; fossils of  
8 this creature have been found in the Panhandle area, near the town  
9 of Post, and no evidence of its existence has been found anywhere  
10 else; and

11           WHEREAS, Also known as *Technosaurus smalli*, Technosaurus was  
12 identified by Dr. Sankar Chatterjee of Texas Tech University in  
13 1984, and the dinosaur's name honors Dr. Chatterjee's academic  
14 home; a well-known paleontologist, Dr. Chatterjee has made a number  
15 of pioneering discoveries in his career, and in finding  
16 Technosaurus, he revealed one of the earliest bird-hipped dinosaurs  
17 that has been found in North America; and

18           WHEREAS, Standing about four feet high and weighing around 25  
19 pounds, this small plant-eating dinosaur lived during the Late  
20 Triassic Epoch, between 200 and 228 million years ago; it has  
21 similarities to other small herbivorous dinosaurs found in South  
22 America, and some scientists have linked it to Silesaurus, a  
23 creature unearthed in Poland; and

24           WHEREAS, Recently, Technosaurus has received renewed

1 attention thanks to the efforts of Shashwath Murthy, a fifth-grade  
2 student at Valley Ranch Elementary School in Irving; born in  
3 Boulder, Colorado, Mr. Murthy first became interested in dinosaurs  
4 at the age of three, when he saw the film *Jurassic Park*; after  
5 moving to Texas, he learned about Technosaurus while completing a  
6 school project in the first grade, and in the years since, he has  
7 conducted extensive research on the species; on March 24, 2009, he  
8 delivered informative testimony at a meeting of the House Committee  
9 on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, during which he drew attention  
10 to the unique aspects of this Lone Star dinosaur; and

11 WHEREAS, The discovery of Technosaurus has helped to  
12 emphasize the important role Texas plays in the field of  
13 paleontology and has left us with a greater appreciation of the  
14 early inhabitants that once roamed the landscape of the Lone Star  
15 State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize April 23, 2009, as Technosaurus Day  
18 and commend Shashwath Murthy for his admirable work in raising  
19 public awareness of this prehistoric Texan; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Mr. Murthy as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
22 House of Representatives.