

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 2847

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Great Texas Balloon Race is being held from July
2 10 to 12, 2009, in Longview; and

3 WHEREAS, This world-class event dates back to 1978, when a
4 hot air balloon pilot, Dr. Bill Bussey, advertised the opening of
5 the Longview Mall by draping a banner over his balloon, and he began
6 gaining support from local residents and business leaders for the
7 establishment of a balloon race; in 1980, Dr. Bussey helped create
8 the first-ever balloon glow, an evening attraction that showcased a
9 number of tethered balloons illuminated in a radiant display of
10 light, and from then on, these events became increasingly popular
11 and drew many new visitors to the city; and

12 WHEREAS, Affiliated with the North American Balloon
13 Association, the Great Texas Balloon Race attracts pilots from
14 across the United States and beyond to the East Texas Regional
15 Airport, where they vie for the Texas State Championship; it
16 features 80 sport and special-shaped hot air balloons engaged in
17 such competitions as the Controlled Navigational Trajectory Event,
18 or the "Key Grab," which is a crowd favorite; the weekend
19 festivities also include live concerts, arts and crafts, and
20 children's activities; and

21 WHEREAS, For more than three decades, the Great Texas Balloon
22 Race has remained a cherished tradition for many residents of the
23 Lone Star State, and it is indeed a pleasure to join the citizens of
24 Longview in celebrating this noteworthy occasion; now, therefore,

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2009 Great Texas Balloon Race
4 and extend to its sponsors and attendees sincere best wishes for a
5 memorable and successful event; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the organizers of the Great Texas Balloon Race as an
8 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.