

By: Berman

H.C.R. No. 59

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of the cities of Tyler, Longview, and  
2 Kilgore are celebrating East Texas Coalition Days at the State  
3 Capitol from February 28 to March 1, 2011, and this occasion  
4 provides an ideal opportunity to extol the many virtues of these  
5 three communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Claiming the title "Rose Capital of the Nation,"  
7 Tyler is well known for the flowers that are grown and displayed to  
8 great effect at the Municipal Rose Garden, at the Tyler Rose Museum,  
9 and in other locations throughout the city; the community also  
10 benefits from the natural beauty of its urban forests and nearby  
11 bodies of water and offers popular destinations such as the  
12 Caldwell Zoo, Discovery Science Place, and the Tyler Museum of Art,  
13 as well as opportunities for boating and fishing on Lakes Palestine  
14 and Tyler and an ample supply of golf courses; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 18,000 students pursue higher education at  
16 The University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler Junior College, The  
17 University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, and Texas  
18 College, and Tyler is the medical headquarters of the region,  
19 boasting numerous health care institutions as well as the academic  
20 research facility; and

21 WHEREAS, Energy and industry have powered the city of  
22 Longview through nearly a century and a half of growth and progress,  
23 a dynamic story that is told at the Gregg County Historical Museum;  
24 originally an agricultural community, Longview changed forever

1 when oil was discovered in the area, and the vast reserves of the  
2 East Texas Oilfield helped America become a world power; petroleum  
3 continues to play a key role in the city's economy, but a diverse  
4 range of other commercial endeavors has been established there,  
5 including manufacturing, lignite mining, and tourism; and

6         WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy the Longview  
7 Museum of Fine Arts and the Great Texas Balloon Race, and the town  
8 is the site of LeTourneau University, founded by the inventor,  
9 entrepreneur, businessman, and evangelist R. G. LeTourneau, whose  
10 memorial museum and archives are located on the campus; among the  
11 annual celebrations in the Longview area are the Roughneck Day  
12 Festival in White Oak and East Texas Gusher Days in Gladewater; and

13         WHEREAS, Kilgore is another community that has played a  
14 central role in the oil business, and it is known as the "City of  
15 Stars" for the many star-topped derricks in the center of town,  
16 which are lighted at Christmastime; in addition to being home to the  
17 Rangerettes, the internationally famous drill team, Kilgore  
18 College chronicles the history of "the world's richest acre" at its  
19 East Texas Oil Museum; and

20         WHEREAS, Thanks to the efforts of its enterprising citizens,  
21 Kilgore features both first-class entertainment like the Texas  
22 Shakespeare Festival, which draws actors from across the nation,  
23 and vintage small-town charm that welcomes tourists to the city's  
24 antique shops and restaurants; well-known Kilgore natives include  
25 celebrated pianist Van Cliburn and legendary Texas Ranger Manuel T.  
26 "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas; and

27         WHEREAS, The residents of these three notable cities are

1 justifiably proud of their heritage and of the many qualities that  
2 make East Texas an outstanding place in which to live, work, and  
3 raise a family, and it is indeed fitting to acknowledge and  
4 celebrate the numerous contributions this region continues to make  
5 to the development of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

6       RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
7 hereby designate February 28 to March 1, 2011, as East Texas  
8 Coalition Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting  
9 delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay  
10 in Austin.