

By: Parker

H.C.R. No. 144

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has benefited enormously from
2 the contributions of its Italian American residents; and

3 WHEREAS, During the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, the
4 few Italians who came to Texas were mainly explorers, adventurers,
5 or missionaries; Italians began to play a larger role toward the end
6 of the 19th century, when Piedmontese made their homes in Montague
7 County and Sicilians settled in the lower Brazos valley and on the
8 Galveston County mainland; Modenese, Venetians, and Piedmontese
9 worked the coal mines at Thurber, and Italian financier Joseph
10 Telfener brought some 1,200 Lombards to help construct the New
11 York, Texas and Mexican Railway between Victoria and Rosenberg; and

12 WHEREAS, Most of the railway builders and coal miners moved
13 back to Italy or on to other places when their work was completed;
14 however, the Italian American community in the Brazos valley fanned
15 out into surrounding areas, and settlements in Houston, Galveston,
16 and San Antonio expanded rapidly; new residents founded churches,
17 newspapers, and benevolent-fraternal organizations, as well as
18 businesses; prominent Italian Americans of the 20th century include
19 bootmaker Sam Lucchese, sculptor Pompeo Coppini, rancher Antonio
20 Mateo Bruni, and agriculturalist-developer Biagio Varisco; the
21 towns of Bruni and Varisco and such names as Bruni Park, Varisco
22 Airport, Liggio Street, and Laneri Avenue are a testament to the
23 achievements of Italian Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, Through the years, individuals of Italian descent

1 have excelled in all sectors of our society and economy, enriching
2 our cultural tapestry, enhancing our prosperity, and securing the
3 Lone Star State's reputation as a land of promise and possibility;
4 June 2 represents an ideal date on which to honor those
5 accomplishments, as Italians around the world celebrate this day as
6 Festa della Repubblica to commemorate the 1946 referendum that
7 ended the monarchy in Italy and established a republic; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby designate June 2 as Italian Heritage Day; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
12 391.004(d), Government Code, the designation expires on the 10th
13 anniversary of the date this resolution is passed by the
14 legislature.