

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 31

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Oak Cliff, the venerable community on the south bank  
2 of the Trinity River, marks the 109th anniversary of its annexation  
3 to Dallas on March 17, 2012; and

4           WHEREAS, Originally known as Hord's Ridge, Oak Cliff traces  
5 its roots to the 1845 arrival of the William H. Hord family and to  
6 the farming community that subsequently grew in the vicinity; in  
7 the 1880s the area of Hord's Ridge was bought by Thomas Marsalis and  
8 John Armstrong, who dreamed of creating an exclusive residential  
9 development there and who gave the site its present name; and

10           WHEREAS, After the pair successfully launched the sale of  
11 lots, Thomas Marsalis gained control of the project and undertook  
12 several ventures to add to the new town's attractiveness; these  
13 included the introduction of a steam-powered railway to connect the  
14 development with downtown Dallas, the establishment of a 150-acre  
15 park, now known as Marsalis Park and Zoo, and the erection of a fine  
16 hotel featuring several mineral baths; and

17           WHEREAS, Oak Cliff enjoyed a period of favor as an upscale  
18 residential and resort community before the depression of 1893  
19 drove Mr. Marsalis into bankruptcy; a number of lots once owned by  
20 his company were then subdivided and sold; and

21           WHEREAS, In 1903, after rejecting several overtures from  
22 Dallas and still struggling with a sluggish economy, Oak Cliff  
23 voters finally agreed to annexation to their larger neighbor;  
24 development over the next several decades included hundreds of

1 modest homes as well as the grand residences of Kessler Park; and

2       WHEREAS, Set on rolling hills a few miles from downtown  
3 Dallas, Oak Cliff today is home to a broadly inclusive population,  
4 with residents representing a variety of ethnic and cultural groups  
5 and economic backgrounds; and

6       WHEREAS, These citizens are acting through a number of  
7 organizations, such as the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Old Oak  
8 Cliff Conservation League, Oak Cliff Foundation, and various  
9 neighborhood groups, to promote the preservation and  
10 revitalization of their community; their efforts have figured  
11 prominently in the rebirth of Jefferson Boulevard, West Davis  
12 Street, and Fort Worth Avenue, in the renovation of the historic  
13 Texas Theater, and in the flowering of the Bishop Arts District; and

14       WHEREAS, Members of close-knit communities within the larger  
15 embrace of Oak Cliff, the residents of this unique section of Dallas  
16 are holding fast to their rich history while forging an ever  
17 brighter and more promising future; now, therefore, be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby commemorate the 109th anniversary of Oak Cliff's  
20 annexation to Dallas and extend to the citizens of Oak Cliff sincere  
21 best wishes as they build on their notable heritage.