

By: Anchia

H.R. No. 415

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Library professionals and supporters from across
2 the Lone Star State are gathering in Austin on February 16, 2011,
3 for Texans Support Libraries Day, and this occasion provides a
4 welcome opportunity to recognize the vital importance of our
5 libraries and the contributions made by librarians; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1839, Republic of Texas President Mirabeau B.
7 Lamar established the national library of Texas; today, the 561
8 public libraries in the state range from the Round Top Library,
9 which serves 84 people, to the Houston and Dallas library systems,
10 which serve millions; more than 80 million visits were made to Texas
11 public libraries last year, and nearly 12 million Texans have
12 public library cards; and

13 WHEREAS, Libraries at Texas universities and community
14 colleges support the studies of more than two million students each
15 year, and school libraries play an integral role in educating close
16 to five million children; children's programs at Texas public
17 libraries draw over three million annually, and the 54-year-old
18 Texas Reading Club keeps more than 500,000 children and teens
19 reading each summer; and

20 WHEREAS, While helping to foster critical thinking,
21 libraries provide opportunities for Texans to enhance their
22 knowledge, education, careers, and quality of life through
23 literacy, technology, job-search, and other training programs;
24 libraries connect Texans with a wealth of electronic resources and

1 provide powerful research tools via the Internet; as a result,
2 library users have conducted more than 116.5 million searches of
3 TexShare online resources and retrieved nearly 50 million
4 electronic documents; for people without Internet connections at
5 home, school, or work, public libraries are the primary point of
6 online access, and for 67 percent of Texans, they provide the only
7 free means of online access in their communities; and

8 WHEREAS, The Texas State Library and Archives Commission is a
9 tremendous source of Texas-based knowledge, and along with that
10 organization, librarians work with the Texas Library Association,
11 the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas, and other local
12 library groups to improve access to library services; and

13 WHEREAS, Librarians understand how knowledge is organized
14 and teach users how to find, evaluate, and apply information
15 effectively; moreover, they foster a love of reading and learning
16 in children; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than 170 years, libraries and librarians
18 have helped Texans reach their fullest potential, and it is a
19 pleasure to join in celebrating the many ways in which they enrich
20 our lives; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 16, 2011, as Texans Support
23 Libraries Day at the State Capitol and commend all those
24 participating for their dedication to promoting and supporting
25 library services; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
27 for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Texas

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1 Library Association as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.