

By: Gooden

H.R. No. 525

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Athens are gathering in Austin on
2 February 22, 2011, to celebrate Athens Day at the State Capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, Athens was first incorporated in 1856, but steady
4 development began after it was reincorporated in 1901; agriculture
5 has long been an important element in the town's economy, and the
6 prominence of the black-eyed pea crop between the 1930s and 1970s
7 resulted in the town garnering the unofficial title of "Black-Eyed
8 Pea Capital of the World"; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the decades, this charming East Texas town
10 has seen significant growth, and today its diverse economic base
11 includes industrial manufacturing and other businesses in addition
12 to farming and livestock ventures; education is a key element in the
13 town's productivity, with Trinity Valley Community College and the
14 area's other schools helping residents to prepare for the future;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Athens has been proclaimed the Original Home of the
17 Hamburger by the Texas Legislature in tribute to the role that city
18 resident Fletcher Davis played in the creation of this American
19 favorite; the town features many exciting annual events, including
20 the Old Fiddlers Contest and Reunion, the Chamber of Commerce PRCA
21 Stampede Rodeo, the Athens Triathlon, and the Smith MDA Benefit
22 Rodeo; and

23 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy such cultural
24 institutions as the East Texas Arboretum, the Henderson County

1 Historical Museum, the Henderson County Performing Arts Center, the
2 Cain Center, the Henderson County Fairpark Complex, and the Texas
3 Freshwater Fisheries Center, where 300,000 gallons of aquarium
4 exhibits feature a wide variety of native Texas fish in natural
5 environments; and

6 WHEREAS, With its relaxed way of life and many attractive
7 amenities, Athens has much to offer retirees and has been
8 recognized as a Certified Retirement Community by the Texas
9 Department of Agriculture; and

10 WHEREAS, This lovely city continues to be one of the Lone Star
11 State's great assets and an outstanding place in which to live,
12 work, and raise a family, and its citizens may indeed take pride in
13 their hometown's ongoing achievements; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2011, as Athens Day at
16 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
17 best wishes for a memorable stay in Austin.