

By: Burnam

H.R. No. 660

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The historic Ryan Place neighborhood of Fort Worth
2 is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, Developer John C. Ryan was a strong proponent of the
4 City Beautiful movement that was sweeping the United States at the
5 turn of the 20th century; after visiting 18 American cities on a
6 fact-finding tour, he returned to Fort Worth with the goal of
7 creating the finest residential district in the South; on March 16,
8 1911, he signed the original deed for a parcel of land about three
9 miles from downtown; and

10 WHEREAS, The property was subdivided and construction began
11 on the entranceway; built of the finest polished marble, it is still
12 an attractive and notable landmark a century later; this was the
13 first development in Fort Worth to employ landscape architects,
14 place utilities in the alleys, and include plantings, entrance
15 gates, and facade lines in the master plan; much of the landscape
16 design was created by George E. Kessler of Dallas, who was famous
17 for having designed the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 and Fair Park
18 in Dallas; and

19 WHEREAS, When the neighborhood was still in its infancy, it
20 played a part in aviation history; on October 17, 1911, Calbraith P.
21 Rodgers landed his Wright Brothers-built plane, the *Vin Fiz*, on the
22 then open spaces of Ryan Place, where several thousand spectators
23 had gathered; the aviator's visit to Fort Worth marked a mid-trip
24 stop for what is recorded as the first transcontinental flight

1 across North America; and

2 WHEREAS, During the neighborhood's first two decades, the
3 residential lots were filled with fine homes in a variety of
4 architectural styles; examples of Italianate, Tudor, Spanish,
5 Georgian, Colonial, Dutch, Federal Revival, and localized versions
6 of the Prairie School are all represented within its boundaries;
7 another building boom took place in the years after World War II;
8 though originally designed as an upscale and exclusive enclave,
9 Ryan Place came to encompass houses in a variety of sizes, ranging
10 from 700 square feet to over 6,000, with current home values that
11 are equally diverse; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1969, the Ryan Place neighborhood association was
13 formed, and 10 years later the neighborhood's Elizabeth Boulevard
14 Historic District was established; today, Ryan Place is home to
15 some 2,000 residents, and its charms have been celebrated with
16 accolades such as being named Best Neighborhood by *Fort Worth*,
17 *Texas* magazine and Neighborhood of the Year by the City of Fort
18 Worth and the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods; and

19 WHEREAS, These honors reflect the tremendous pride that Fort
20 Worth citizens take in this venerable district, which has played a
21 central role in the city's history for the past century; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
24 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
25 establishment of the Ryan Place neighborhood in Fort Worth and
26 extend to its residents sincere best wishes as they celebrate the
27 past and look to a bright future.