

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 984

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Locally owned businesses are vital to the economic  
2 well-being of Texas communities, and on April 29, 2011, Fred's  
3 Corner Grille is celebrating 50 years of service to the people of  
4 Vernon; and

5 WHEREAS, Originally opened as a Dairy Queen franchise by Fred  
6 and Loys Ray in 1961, the restaurant was established with a contract  
7 of just a few typewritten lines; it was made independent more than  
8 40 years later, and it is now thought to be the oldest continuously  
9 operating restaurant in Vernon; and

10 WHEREAS, Fred Ray was a farmer and retail clerk who built  
11 bombers at the Boeing factory in Wichita, Kansas, during World War  
12 II, and his wife, Loys, was a bookkeeper; the couple ran the  
13 restaurant for more than three decades; after hiring Charissa  
14 Morrison in 1988, they turned over the day-to-day operations of the  
15 business to her in 1992, but remained involved even after their  
16 retirement; Mr. Ray passed away in 2001, and the restaurant was  
17 later renamed Fred's Corner Grille in his honor; Mrs. Ray, who loved  
18 interacting with the restaurant's customers, could still be found  
19 working behind the counter until her death in 2009; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, Fred's Corner Grille continues to thrive,  
21 thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Morrison and her  
22 staff, and half a century after it opened, the restaurant remains a  
23 cherished community institution; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

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1 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of Fred's  
2 Corner Grille and extend to all those associated with the  
3 restaurant sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for Fred's Corner Grille as an expression of high regard by  
7 the Texas House of Representatives.