

By: Sheets

H.R. No. 1259

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of  
2 White Rock Lake in Dallas, and area residents are celebrating the  
3 centennial of this treasured landmark; and

4           WHEREAS, City officials began to acquire land in the White  
5 Rock Creek valley in 1907 in anticipation of creating a reservoir to  
6 meet growing water supply needs in Dallas; water shortages in 1910  
7 prompted the city to move forward with their plans to build a dam on  
8 the creek, and by 1911 the work was finished; the first water from  
9 the lake was pumped into Dallas mains in 1913 and the lake was  
10 determined to be at capacity the following year; and

11           WHEREAS, After Lake Lewisville in Denton County was completed  
12 in 1929, White Rock Lake and the land surrounding it became a city  
13 park, and sand was brought in to make a bathing beach; Dallas  
14 residents soon discovered that the lake was an ideal place for  
15 outdoor sports; and

16           WHEREAS, During the Depression, a Civilian Conservation  
17 Corps unit was established at the lake, and the men stationed there  
18 were responsible for planting many of the trees that line its shores  
19 today; during World War II, the Army Air Corps used the CCC barracks  
20 as an induction center and boot camp, and later it served as a  
21 prisoner-of-war camp for German noncombatants captured in North  
22 Africa; it was subsequently used to house an overflow of Southern  
23 Methodist University students when many former soldiers were  
24 attending college on the GI Bill after the war; and

1           WHEREAS, A drought in 1953 forced city officials to put the  
2 lake back into service as a water supply, and it was never reopened  
3 to swimmers; although the lake entered a period of decline in the  
4 following years, a resurgence of interest took place in the 1970s,  
5 when the first "Run the Rock" marathon was held and a hike and bike  
6 trail was built; the abandoned bathhouse was converted into a  
7 community center for the visual and performing arts in 1981; and

8           WHEREAS, Further improving White Rock's future prospects, a  
9 collection of Dallas citizens formed For the Love of the Lake in  
10 1995, and by 2001 the organization had 3,500 volunteers who did much  
11 to clean and restore the area; a new leash-free dog park has been  
12 added, and the lake today offers sailing, rowing, bird-watching,  
13 and fishing opportunities as well as picnic areas, playgrounds, and  
14 athletic facilities to more than two million visitors each year;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, District 9 City Councilmember, Sheffield Kadane has  
17 appointed a committee of Dallas citizens and lake stakeholders,  
18 co-chaired by Darren Boruff and Reena Morris, to plan, coordinate  
19 and oversee more than 20 different events and activities related to  
20 the Comerica White Rock Lake Centennial Celebration through the  
21 cooperation of 20 different groups including the City of Dallas  
22 Park and Recreation Department, the Dallas Water Utilities, Dallas  
23 Police Department; and

24           WHEREAS, The 2011 Comerica White Rock Lake Centennial  
25 Celebration from March through June; serving as honorary chair of  
26 the celebration is iconic city realtor and former Park and  
27 Recreation board member Ebby Halliday, who in 2011 also turned 100;

1 a golf tournament, a bike ride, a half marathon, a bass fishing  
2 tournament, rowing sprint championships, and family fun weekends  
3 are just a few of the many ways organizers are marking the occasion;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, For a century, White Rock Lake has contributed to  
6 the quality of life in the city of Dallas and beyond, as an  
7 important water source and a beloved destination for leisure,  
8 solace, and recreation, and it is indeed fitting to commemorate the  
9 rich history of this urban oasis; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the  
12 creation of White Rock Lake in Dallas.