

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1374

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Van Zandt County Historical Commission and the  
2 citizens of Van are celebrating the dedication of a Texas  
3 Historical Marker honoring Van Common School on May 21, 2011; and

4           WHEREAS, Van Common School opened in 1916 with 95 students  
5 and 4 teachers; the school was formed from the consolidation of  
6 Swindall and Spring Hill Schools; during its construction,  
7 community members pitched in to haul 114 wagonloads of building  
8 materials to Van from Grand Saline in order to keep down costs; and

9           WHEREAS, In May 1928, the school was destroyed by a fire; the  
10 school district was able to quickly secure the funds to rebuild the  
11 school through its insurance payout and the issuance of school  
12 bonds; Van Common School reopened on its original site in time for  
13 the 1928-1929 school year; and

14           WHEREAS, The school began the 1929-1930 academic year with 90  
15 students; in October 1929, oil was discovered within a mile of the  
16 school, leading to a population boom that transformed Van from a  
17 small farming community into a bustling town in a matter of weeks;  
18 the forward-thinking school board and school administrators  
19 anticipated that they would need to prepare for rapid growth in the  
20 school district, and they worked to secure funding for a new high  
21 school and elementary school, which both opened in the fall of 1931;  
22 the district also had to contend with the disruptions caused by oil  
23 drilling operations taking place within 500 feet of the school,  
24 which led to classes being moved to a temporary site a short

1 distance away; and

2 WHEREAS, Van Common School played an integral role in the  
3 life of Van, and recognition by the Texas Historical Commission  
4 ensures that the school's noteworthy history will be preserved for  
5 future generations; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of a Texas Historical  
8 Marker at Van Common School and that all those involved in securing  
9 the historical marker be extended sincere appreciation; and, be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for the Van Zandt County Historical Commission as an  
13 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.