

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1375

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 High School on May 21, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Van High School was built in 1931 in response to the
5 rapid growth in population that occurred after oil was discovered
6 near Van in October 1929; before the oil boom, Van was a quiet
7 farming community with one schoolhouse, the five-room Van Common
8 School; at the beginning of the 1929-1930 school year, the Common
9 School had an enrollment of 90 pupils; by the next year, however,
10 the school was struggling to meet the demands of 611 students, and
11 it was clear to school and community officials that new schools
12 would have to be constructed; and

13 WHEREAS, The Van Independent School District was able to
14 pursue its ambitious expansion plans through voter approval of a
15 bond issue and with the support of oil revenues, including a \$12,500
16 donation from the Pure Oil Company; by the summer of 1930, a new
17 gymnasium had been built, which served as a temporary high school;
18 construction started on a new high school and elementary school in
19 the spring of 1931; and

20 WHEREAS, Van High School opened at the beginning of the
21 1931-1932 school year; a state-of-the-art campus, it included the
22 new gym and a teachers' home, with an athletic park and a physical
23 education-vocational building being added within the next few
24 years; the school drew its water from the Pure Oil Company lines at

1 no charge, and the company also provided gas to heat the buildings;
2 money that continued to come in from the oil field allowed the
3 school district to pursue a second phase of campus expansion that
4 continued during World War II, and that was finished in 1947; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of eight decades, Van High School
6 has figured prominently in the history of Van, and recognition by
7 the Texas Historical Commission is a fitting tribute to the role it
8 has played in educating several generations of area residents; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of a Texas Historical
12 Marker at Van High School and that all those involved in securing
13 the historical marker be extended sincere appreciation; and, be it
14 further

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