

By: Perry

H.R. No. 2095

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Slaton are celebrating the 100th
2 anniversary of their town's founding with a full program of events
3 scheduled for July 1 through July 4, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Named for O. L. Slaton, a local rancher and banker,
5 Slaton originated as a railroad town; needing a site that could
6 serve as the division point for its line in northwest Texas, the
7 Santa Fe Railway Company purchased land for that purpose in April
8 1911; the new town was platted with streets radiating outward from
9 the central residential and business district, a plan similar to
10 that of Washington, D.C.; Slaton was officially established on June
11 15, 1911, a day marked by the arrival of the first of four daily
12 passenger trains and by the publication of the first issue of the
13 *Slaton Journal*; in less than a year, the rapidly growing town
14 boasted a post office, a newspaper, and an independent school
15 district; Slaton became the center of the largest division in the
16 Santa Fe system and serviced the division's trains with its
17 roundhouse and machine shops; the town's economy was based chiefly
18 on the railroad and on agriculture, particularly cotton; Slaton is
19 reported, in fact, to have ginned the first bale of cotton on the
20 South Plains; and

21 WHEREAS, Today an attractive, friendly community of some
22 6,000 residents, Slaton continues to serve as an agricultural
23 center; in 1955, the Santa Fe Railway Company gave Engine 1809 to
24 the city of Slaton in tribute to the town's railroad heritage and

1 the countless runs the engine made hauling cotton from area farms to
2 ports on the Gulf Coast; other points of interest include the Slaton
3 Museum, the Harvey House, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and
4 the Texas Air Museum, which maintains several vintage aircraft in
5 addition to its exhibits and which hosts periodic air shows; for a
6 number of years the annual Sausagefest, sponsored by St. Joseph
7 Church and School, has drawn an appreciative throng, and the nearby
8 Buffalo Springs Lake and Lake Ransom Canyon, both located in Yellow
9 House Canyon, offer a variety of recreational opportunities for
10 outdoor enthusiasts; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the years, the citizens of Slaton have sought
12 to preserve the best of their past while working to build an even
13 brighter and more promising future, and they are indeed deserving
14 of recognition on this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of Slaton and extend
17 to its residents sincere best wishes for a grand and memorable
18 celebration.