

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 133

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Van Zandt County are  
2 gathering at the State Capitol on February 20, 2013, to celebrate  
3 the significant part they and their forebears have played in the  
4 development of the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, Created by an Act of the Texas Legislature on March  
6 20, 1847, this Northeast Texas county was named for Isaac Van Zandt,  
7 a Republic of Texas lawyer, legislator, and diplomat; and

8           WHEREAS, Canton, the county seat, was laid out in 1850 and  
9 incorporated in 1919; named a Main Street City in 2001, it is home  
10 to the Van Zandt County Fair and First Monday Trade Days, one of the  
11 country's best-known flea markets; a library of genealogy and local  
12 history is also a popular attraction and preserves much of the  
13 county's notable heritage; and

14           WHEREAS, The development of this fascinating area can be  
15 traced in a number of other communities as well; Edgewood, settled  
16 in the 1840s, boasts the Edgewood Heritage Park Museum, a facility  
17 dedicated to the preservation of rural cultural and architectural  
18 history; and

19           WHEREAS, Edom, established in 1856, is one of the oldest  
20 towns in the county, and its past is highlighted by 11 state  
21 historical markers, many of them researched by members of the Edom  
22 Historical Society; the residents of this small community also give  
23 hearty support to an active civic theater; and

24           WHEREAS, Fruit cultivation prompted the naming of Fruitvale,

1 where a nursery operated as early as the 1870s; several generations  
2 in this century-old town treasured the Randall Store, a local  
3 institution first opened in 1910; and

4 WHEREAS, Grand Saline, originally called Jordan's Saline,  
5 the first Van Zandt County seat, takes its name from an immense dome  
6 of pure salt lying beneath the city; more than a mile and a half wide  
7 and 20,000 feet thick, the deposit is presently mined by Morton Salt  
8 Company; the city celebrates salt with an annual Salt Festival;  
9 those exploring this 2004 Main Street City can tour the Salt Palace  
10 Museum, which is built with rock salt crystal, stop by the  
11 historical marker commemorating native son and renowned pioneer  
12 aviator Wiley Post, and visit the new Veterans Memorial Wall Park,  
13 featuring a genuine U.S. Army tank; and

14 WHEREAS, Van, established in 1891, remained a quiet farming  
15 community until 1929, when the discovery of oil nearby transformed  
16 the village into a boomtown; the Van Area Oil and Historical Museum  
17 recaptures the excitement of that frenetic time and commemorates  
18 the discovery with an annual Oil Festival; and

19 WHEREAS, Wills Point, settled in 1873 and originally known as  
20 Iola, was renamed for William Wills, whose cabin served as a  
21 stopping place for those traveling between Shreveport and Dallas;  
22 the Wills cabin still stands, as does the Texas and Pacific Railroad  
23 depot, which houses the Historical Society Museum; Wills Point,  
24 which is officially the Bluebird Capital of Texas, hosts the annual  
25 Bluebird Festival; and

26 WHEREAS, Ben Wheeler, surrounded by natural springs and rich  
27 farmland, was named for Van Zandt County's first mail carrier,

1 Benjamin R. Wheeler, in 1876; and

2 WHEREAS, Martins Mill, which got its name from Dan R.  
3 Martin's gristmill, was established in 1880 and is home to one of  
4 the largest dairies in East Texas; the community survived  
5 destruction by tornadoes and fires and today boasts a successful  
6 school district; and

7 WHEREAS, Major events in the county include the Texas State  
8 Bluegrass Festival, the Edom Festival of the Arts, and the Van Zandt  
9 County Relay for Life; for the outdoor enthusiast, the Neches and  
10 Sabine Rivers, Purtis Creek State Park, and Lake Tawakoni State  
11 Park offer wonderful opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming,  
12 and camping; and

13 WHEREAS, The home of more than 52,000 people, Van Zandt  
14 County relies on tourism, oil, and agribusiness; the area is a major  
15 producer of hay, blueberries, sweet potatoes, and nursery crops, in  
16 addition to cattle, horses, hogs, and dairy products; and

17 WHEREAS, The citizens of Van Zandt County take justifiable  
18 pride in the hard work and ready cooperation that have made their  
19 county strong, and it is a pleasure to join them in honoring the  
20 county they are proud to call home; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 20, 2013, as Van Zandt County  
23 Day at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to the  
24 visiting Van Zandt residents for an informative and memorable day.