

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 203

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A Historic Texas Cemetery marker was dedicated at
2 the Old Kit Cemetery on October 27, 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, Now located within the Irving city limits, the
4 cemetery is the last remaining vestige of Kit, a small farming
5 community nestled between La Reunion and Peters Colony; initially
6 called Gorbit, the community was renamed Kit in 1894, and Isaac
7 Henry Story, who operated a grocery store in the hamlet, served as
8 its first postmaster; and

9 WHEREAS, The site of the Old Kit Cemetery has been used as a
10 burial ground since 1896, when David Chadwell Britain donated 1.5
11 acres for that purpose; Mr. Britain made the gift when a family that
12 was passing through the area asked if they could bury their child,
13 who had just died, in the grove of trees where they had camped;
14 following its establishment, many members of Kit's earliest
15 families were interred at the graveyard, including I. H. Story and
16 the woman for whom the community was purportedly named, Catherine
17 "Aunt Kit" King; and

18 WHEREAS, Among the approximately 680 marked graves in the
19 cemetery are those of French, German, and Belgian settlers, as well
20 as individuals who traced their ancestry to the British Isles; some
21 grave sites belong to Japanese laborers who were employed by the
22 railroad company that built through the area around the turn of the
23 20th century and to members of their families; the site also serves
24 as the final resting place for veterans of the Civil War, the

1 Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean and
2 Vietnam Wars; the cemetery is still in use today, although burials
3 are now restricted to direct descendants of the community's early
4 residents; and

5 WHEREAS, To promote the upkeep of this historic site, Old Kit
6 Cemetery, Inc., was formed in 1947, and its members have worked
7 tirelessly over the decades both to care for the cemetery and to
8 foster an appreciation for its significance; as a result of their
9 outstanding efforts, the Irving Heritage Society awarded a
10 historical marker to the Old Kit Cemetery in 1998, and an Irving
11 Centennial Celebration Task Force historical marker was conferred
12 on the cemetery in 2004; the Texas Historical Commission recognized
13 Old Kit as a Historic Texas Cemetery in May 2010, the same year that
14 the burial ground entered the Texas RIP guardian program, which
15 coordinates the preservation efforts of local volunteers; and

16 WHEREAS, The Old Kit Cemetery evokes recollections not only
17 of the challenges faced by early settlers in the region but also of
18 their perseverance, and it is a pleasure to commend those dedicated
19 volunteers who have given so generously of their time to maintain,
20 research, and document this site for the benefit of posterity; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of a Historic Texas
24 Cemetery marker at the Old Kit Cemetery and extend to all those
25 involved with this project sincere appreciation for their
26 commitment to preserving the heritage of the Lone Star State.