

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 922

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America celebrated the 100th
2 anniversary of establishing the rank of Eagle Scout in April 2012;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Since its creation as the supreme achievement in
5 American scouting, the Eagle Scout badge has served as a powerful
6 symbol of accomplishment for young men, and the pursuit of this
7 coveted designation has helped numerous individuals to develop
8 their confidence and decision-making skills in preparation for the
9 challenges of adulthood; and

10 WHEREAS, To receive the rank, a candidate must meet a
11 demanding set of requirements that includes the attainment of 21
12 merit badges, the performance of troop leadership
13 responsibilities, and the completion of a community service
14 project; moreover, a prospective Eagle Scout must pass a rigorous
15 board of review that evaluates the manner in which he embodies the
16 tenets of the organization; and

17 WHEREAS, The nation's original Eagle Scout was Arthur Eldred
18 from Long Island, New York, who went before a review board composed
19 of the original founders of the Boy Scouts of America and was
20 approved for the honor in the summer of 1912; the first Eagle Scout
21 from Texas, and the first west of the Mississippi River, was William
22 Elmo Merrem of Shiner, who earned his badge on July 3, 1913; Mr.
23 Merrem went on to become a Marine Corps pilot during World War I
24 and, later, the vice president of the Houston Oil Company; and

1 WHEREAS, Many other Eagle Scouts have realized notable
2 accomplishments as well, and the list of badge recipients includes
3 winners of the Medal of Honor and the Nobel Prize, and numerous
4 astronauts, governors, and members of Congress; among the eminent
5 Texans to receive the rank are Walter Cronkite, H. Ross Perot, Lloyd
6 Bentsen, J. J. Pickle, and Governor Rick Perry; and

7 WHEREAS, Through the years, young men seeking the insignia
8 have collectively completed more than 100 million hours of service
9 while working on their Eagle Scout projects, which makes the
10 program one of the most productive youth initiatives of its kind;
11 some two million Americans have become Eagle Scouts during the past
12 century, and they have made positive contributions to cities and
13 towns across the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The Eagle Scout program affirms the highest ideals
15 of the scouting movement, and the quest for this prestigious
16 designation has served as an important milestone in the lives of
17 legions of young men, helping them to build a strong foundation for
18 the future while benefiting their fellow citizens; now, therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the
22 establishment of the Eagle Scout rank and extend sincere best
23 wishes to the Boy Scouts of America for continued success with this
24 important program.