

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1519

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Van Zandt County are gathering on
2 May 14, 2013, to celebrate the 165th anniversary of the county's
3 founding; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated on the Post Oak Savannah and Blackland
5 Prairie of northeast Texas, Van Zandt County was originally home to
6 the Caddo and Cherokee Indians; Anglo Americans began to settle in
7 the area in the 1840s, clearing farmland and raising cattle along
8 the Sabine River; and

9 WHEREAS, Van Zandt County was created by the Texas
10 Legislature in 1848 from part of Henderson County, and it was named
11 for Isaac Van Zandt, a pioneer and an early leader of the Texas
12 Republic; Canton was established as the county seat in 1850; and

13 WHEREAS, Early residents mostly hailed from southern states
14 such as Tennessee and Alabama, along with a small colony of
15 Norwegian immigrants who settled at Four Mile Prairie; the
16 anti-slavery stance of the Norwegians led to the practice of
17 calling the county the "Free State of Van Zandt," even though the
18 majority of the county's residents voted to join the Confederacy in
19 1861; and

20 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, the county's agricultural
21 economy grew with the arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railway in
22 1873; cotton began to be grown commercially after the turn of the
23 century, and oil was discovered near the town of Van in 1929;
24 throughout its history, the county has been known as a leading

1 producer of salt, from the extensive mines at Grand Saline; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the economy of Van Zandt County continues to
3 be based on agriculture, and the county's citizens enjoy a relaxed
4 lifestyle while benefiting from the amenities and job opportunities
5 in the nearby Dallas Metroplex; residents and visitors alike
6 delight in Canton's First Monday Trade Days flea market every
7 month, the annual Grand Saline Salt Festival, and the fishing and
8 boating on Lake Tawakoni; and

9 WHEREAS, The people of Van Zandt County remain proud of their
10 rich history even as they work to build a bright future, and this
11 special anniversary represents a fine opportunity to celebrate the
12 heritage and promise of this unique region of the Lone Star State;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 165th anniversary of Van Zandt
16 County and extend to the county's residents sincere best wishes for
17 a memorable and enjoyable celebration; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Van Zandt County as an expression of high regard by the
20 Texas House of Representatives.