

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1622

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of Four Mile Lutheran Church in Van Zandt
2 County are marking the 165th anniversary of the founding of their
3 congregation in 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Believed to be the oldest Lutheran house of worship
5 in Texas, Four Mile Lutheran Church traces its roots to Johan
6 Reiersen and a small group of fellow Norwegians who immigrated to
7 the United States in the 1840s; they landed at New Orleans, then
8 traveled on to Texas, originally settling in Henderson County; two
9 years later, Mr. Reiersen and his family continued another 30 miles
10 farther north and established a settlement known as Four Mile
11 Prairie, or Prairieville; and

12 WHEREAS, The first services were held in 1848, with members
13 gathering outdoors or in private homes, and Mr. Reiersen himself
14 served as director of the church; two acres were soon deeded to the
15 congregation for a cemetery and a permanent place of worship, and a
16 log sanctuary was built in 1853; Pastor Anders Fredrickson arrived
17 from Norway the next year to guide the community of faith; and

18 WHEREAS, Following some destruction by termites, the church
19 building was rebuilt in 1875 and improved in 1941, and it continues
20 to serve the congregation today as the location for adult Sunday
21 school classes; a vacant structure was purchased in Mabank and
22 moved to the site in 1956; following repairs and remodeling, it
23 became the main sanctuary, and a new parish hall was later added;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Four Mile Lutheran Church has long served as a
2 source of inspiration and guidance to those who worship there, and
3 its continued existence is a tribute to the unwavering commitment
4 of its members, both past and present; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
6 Legislature hereby commemorate the 165th anniversary of Four Mile
7 Lutheran Church and extend to the congregation sincere best wishes
8 for the future; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
11 House of Representatives.