

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 1577

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Rusk County are assembling at the  
2 Texas State Capitol to celebrate Rusk County Days on March 31 and  
3 April 1, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, A picturesque region of rolling hills in the Piney  
5 Woods of East Texas, Rusk County was first occupied by the Caddo and  
6 the Cherokee tribes; the first European settlers arrived in the  
7 1830s, and on January 16, 1843, the county was formed by act of the  
8 Congress of the Republic of Texas and named after Thomas Jefferson  
9 Rusk, secretary of war under Texas President Sam Houston; and

10 WHEREAS, For many years, the county's economy was based on  
11 cotton and other agriculture, but on October 3, 1930, Columbus  
12 Marion "Dad" Joiner struck oil at his famous Daisy Bradford No. 3  
13 well, opening up the East Texas oil field, which at the time was the  
14 largest oil field in the world; three years later, Rusk County was  
15 producing over 200 million barrels of petroleum a year, turning  
16 county seat Henderson from a sleepy village to a bustling boomtown;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Oil and agriculture continue to be mainstays of the  
19 county's economy, along with natural gas, timber, and the mining of  
20 lignite coal; in addition, Rusk County's bricks, made from the  
21 region's unique clay soil, are highly prized; the county economy is  
22 further bolstered by two correctional institutions, including the  
23 Bradshaw State Jail in Henderson; and

24 WHEREAS, Only two miles from "Dad" Joiner's original well,

1 the Gaston Museum in Joinerville commemorates the history of the  
2 East Texas oil field; in Henderson, the Depot Museum, a beautifully  
3 restored Missouri Pacific railway depot from 1901, hosts the annual  
4 Heritage Syrup Festival every November; recreational opportunities  
5 abound in the county's parks, including Martin Creek Lake State  
6 Park, which offers swimming, boating, fishing, waterskiing, and  
7 other activities; and

8 WHEREAS, Honoring their heritage as they embrace the  
9 opportunities of the future, the citizens of Rusk County may take  
10 great pride in the role their communities have played in the story  
11 of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 31 and April 1, 2015, as Rusk  
14 County Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting  
15 delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable  
16 stay in Austin.