

By: Hefner

H.C.R. No. 130

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2017, represents the centennial of the first  
2 landing by an aircraft at Mineola-Wisener Field Airport in Wood  
3 County; and

4 WHEREAS, On the Fourth of July, 1917, Lieutenant Ralph W.  
5 Stone of the U.S. Army Signal Corps landed his Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny"  
6 biplane at what was then known as Massingale Meadow, proving the  
7 field's suitability as an emergency landing site between Love Field  
8 in Dallas and a military base in Shreveport, Louisiana; witnessing  
9 this first landing was a 12-year-old local farm boy named Robert  
10 Henry Wisener Jr.; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the next few years, the field was used by such  
12 pioneer aviators as Wiley Post, who was the first man to fly solo  
13 around the world, and Hollywood stunt pilot Roy Wilson, who in the  
14 summer of 1923 taught Henry Wisener how to fly; in 1926, Mr. Wisener  
15 leased the site, renamed it Royal Field, and began providing flight  
16 lessons, aircraft repairs, and aircraft fuel; together with his  
17 brother, Bryce, he also established the Royal Flying Circus, which  
18 offered airplane rides and performed aerobatics; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1941, Henry Wisener bought the site and 50  
20 adjacent acres and lengthened the runway to accommodate newer  
21 aircraft, and after World War II, the brothers added an aircraft  
22 repair shop, a classroom, a flight office, and a beacon tower; from  
23 1963 to 1983, the airport was leased to the City of Mineola and  
24 called Mineola Municipal Airport, and since 1983, it has been known

1 as Mineola-Wisener Field Airport; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the years, this historic airfield and the  
3 family behind it have been honored on a number of occasions; Charles  
4 Lindbergh presented the airport in 1928 with a certificate from the  
5 Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, and the  
6 Texas Historical Commission has conferred on the airport both an  
7 Official Texas Historical Marker and a Texas Treasure Business  
8 Award; on May 2, 1980, the city of Mineola celebrated Henry and  
9 Bryce Wisener Day, in recognition of their contributions to  
10 American and Wood County aviation; today, the site of the airport is  
11 also home to the Royal Flying Circus Aviation Museum and to a  
12 chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association; and

13 WHEREAS, Still owned by the Wisener family, the  
14 Mineola-Wisener Field Airport is the oldest privately held  
15 public-use airport in Texas and the home base of more than 70  
16 aircraft, and it continues to support the local economy and to  
17 contribute to the rich history of aviation in the Lone Star State;  
18 now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
20 hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first landing at  
21 Mineola-Wisener Field Airport and extend to the Wisener family and  
22 to everyone associated with the airport sincere best wishes for the  
23 future; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mineola-Wisener Field Airport as an expression of high  
26 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.