

By: Ashby

H.R. No. 2371

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Lufkin are celebrating the 50th
2 anniversary of the Ellen Trout Zoo on June 17, 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1965, local businessman Walter W. Trout and the
4 Lufkin Rotary Club proposed establishing a zoo that would feature
5 the fauna of East Texas, but when Mr. Trout received a baby
6 hippopotamus as a gift, the focus of the zoo shifted to include more
7 exotic creatures; and

8 WHEREAS, The zoo was officially opened on June 17, 1967, and
9 named in honor of Mr. Trout's mother, with his granddaughter
10 Barbara cutting the ribbon; in 1983, it became the fifth zoo in
11 Texas to be accredited by the American Association of Zoological
12 Parks and Aquariums, and the following year, the Friends of Ellen
13 Trout Zoo was created to help the zoo promote conservation, acquire
14 new animals, build new exhibits, and purchase equipment; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, the Ellen Trout Zoo draws some 150,000
16 visitors each year from across East Texas and western Louisiana
17 with the opportunity to see a variety of wild animals, including
18 Maasai giraffes, southern white rhinoceroses, Malayan tigers, and
19 the largest zoo colony of cotton-top tamarin monkeys in the United
20 States; since 2002, the state-of-the-art Hippoquarium has allowed
21 visitors to view the zoo's two hippos in a natural river setting;
22 the zoo also features a miniature train, a fishing lake, a hiking
23 trail, a playground, and picnic areas; and

24 WHEREAS, More than 10,000 area students visit the facility

1 each year to learn more about the natural world; in addition, the
2 zoo is active in several important conservation efforts to help
3 preserve and increase the populations of a variety of animals,
4 including the Louisiana pine snake and the East Texas black bear,
5 and it has also provided support to protect the Orinoco crocodile,
6 the clouded leopard, jaguars, and other species whose survival is
7 at risk; and

8 WHEREAS, For half a century, the Ellen Trout Zoo has proven to
9 be an invaluable cultural and educational resource, delighting
10 residents and visitors alike with its unique collection of some of
11 the world's most remarkable creatures; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Ellen
14 Trout Zoo and extend to the zoo's staff, volunteers, and guests
15 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable celebration;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the Ellen Trout Zoo as an expression of high regard by
19 the Texas House of Representatives.