

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 820**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mineola-Wisener Field Airport as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hughes

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate