

By: Landgraf

H.R. No. 145

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Midland and Odessa are gathering  
2 in Austin from February 6-8, 2023, to celebrate Midland-Odessa Days  
3 at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Set only 20 miles apart in the ranching and oil  
5 country of West Texas, these vibrant Texas cities got their start as  
6 stops on the Texas and Pacific Railway in the 1880s; by 1890,  
7 Midland was one of the most important centers for shipping cattle in  
8 Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Odessa began its rapid growth with the discovery of  
10 oil in the Permian Basin in the 1920s, and by 1929, Midland was home  
11 to 36 oil companies; today, Midland continues to be the financial  
12 and administrative capital of the Permian Basin, while Odessa  
13 remains the center for the region's oil processing and  
14 distribution; and

15 WHEREAS, Midland and Odessa are the primary cities located in  
16 the Permian Basin; the region accounts for nearly 40 percent of oil  
17 production in the United States, and its vast reserves have helped  
18 establish the country as the largest oil and gas producer in the  
19 world; and

20 WHEREAS, Odessa and Midland boast many fine historical and  
21 cultural attractions; in Odessa, the Presidential Archives and  
22 Leadership Library is the only museum in the nation dedicated to the  
23 history of the office of the presidency; the families of both Bush  
24 presidents have called Midland and Odessa home, and the archive

1 features a restored house where the Bush family once resided; and

2 WHEREAS, The Ellen Noël Art Museum, one of only two  
3 Smithsonian affiliates in Texas, features world-class exhibits  
4 year-round, and the Haley Memorial Library & History Center houses  
5 the first bell to hang in the Alamo, as well as vast resources of  
6 oral and written history about the cowboy; and

7 WHEREAS, Situated between Midland and Odessa is the Wagner  
8 Noël Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art facility boasting a  
9 total of 2,000 seats between its theater and recital hall, which  
10 brings in myriad shows to impress a variety of audiences; and

11 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the Stonehenge  
12 replica on the campus of The University of Texas of the Permian  
13 Basin, as well as live productions at the replica of Shakespeare's  
14 Globe Theatre on the campus of Odessa College; furthermore, the  
15 Midland Festival Ballet, the West Texas Symphony, and the  
16 award-winning Midland Community Theatre offer live performances  
17 that inspire and entertain; and

18 WHEREAS, The I-20 Wildlife Preserve Jenna Welch Nature Study  
19 Center and the Sibley Nature Center celebrate the nature and  
20 history of the Permian Basin while showcasing the beauty and  
21 wildlife of the region; furthermore, Odessa is home to the Odessa  
22 Spire, a 1950s architecture sign that was refurbished in 2019 and is  
23 known as the tallest lighted public art structure in Texas; and

24 WHEREAS, The Historic White-Pool House is the first  
25 residential home in Odessa and proudly displays items from both the  
26 White and Pool families; also located in Odessa and enjoyed by more  
27 than 10,000 visitors every year is the nation's second-largest

1 meteor crater and adjoining museum; and

2           WHEREAS, Midland's Museum of the Southwest offers displays of  
3 the art and archaeology of the American Southwest, as well as the  
4 winning Kentucky Derby history of one of Midland's prominent  
5 families; the interactive exhibits of the Permian Basin Petroleum  
6 Museum present the geology and history of oil while helping to  
7 inspire entrepreneurs of the future; and

8           WHEREAS, Odessa features the Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza, which  
9 honors the former Navy SEAL who was born in Odessa, and also pays  
10 tribute to past, current, and future veterans who have served our  
11 country so unselfishly; the Midland Army Air Field Museum preserves  
12 the history of the largest bombardier training school in  
13 World War II and also highlights the contributions that West Texans  
14 made to the war effort; and

15           WHEREAS, For more than a century, the dynamic cities of  
16 Midland and Odessa have been at the economic and cultural hub of  
17 West Texas, and their citizens continue to celebrate their rich  
18 history as they work hard to build a prosperous future; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 6-8, 2023, as Midland-Odessa  
22 Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
23 wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.