

By: Price

H.R. No. 246

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On February 20 and 21, 2023, proud residents of the
2 Texas Panhandle are visiting Austin for Panhandle Days at the State
3 Capitol, a celebration of the rich heritage of this important
4 region of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, The striking landscape of the Panhandle ranges from
6 the vast grasslands and open sky of the Llano Estacado to the
7 breathtaking vistas of Palo Duro Canyon and the Caprock Escarpment
8 to the gently undulating rolling plains of the southeast; the
9 ancient Paleo-Indians once lived here, as did members of later
10 indigenous cultures, and in 1541, when the explorer Francisco
11 Vázquez de Coronado passed through the area, he found a rich
12 rangeland, thick with buffalo and wildlife; and

13 WHEREAS, The Panhandle's distinctive shape results from
14 boundaries that were established by the Compromise of 1850, and in
15 the decades after the Civil War, pioneering cattlemen such as
16 Charles Goodnight, James Adair, and Thomas Sherman Bugbee
17 established enormous ranching empires; the arrival of the railroad
18 in the late 1880s hastened the development of wheat and cotton
19 farming, and the discovery of oil and natural gas in the 1920s
20 further boosted and diversified the region's economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, the Panhandle continues to prosper from
22 farming and from the oil, gas, and wind industries, and
23 cattle-raising remains a multibillion-dollar business, with more
24 feedlots in the region than anywhere else in the nation; Amarillo,

1 the Panhandle's largest city, is home to such large employers as
2 Xcel Energy, Tyson Foods, Bell Helicopter, Pantex, and several
3 health care systems, as well as to the Texas Cattle Feeders
4 Association and the Minor League Baseball team, the Amarillo Sod
5 Poodles; Pampa, the second-largest city, is a thriving center for
6 petroleum and livestock, and Dalhart boasts the annual XIT Rodeo
7 and Reunion and the Hilmar Cheese Company; Sunray is home to a
8 Valero refinery, while Dumas and Hereford are known for cattle
9 feeding and beef processing enterprises; the town of Panhandle
10 serves as the county seat of Carson County and is home to a National
11 Blue Ribbon School, Panhandle Elementary School, and Borger is the
12 site of a Phillips 66 refinery and a Nutrien nitrogen plant; and

13 WHEREAS, The Texas Panhandle is home to several renowned
14 schools from K-12 grade schools to higher education institutions;
15 six Texas Panhandle schools, including Happy High School, Vega
16 Elementary School, Claude School, Gruver Elementary School, and
17 Gruver Junior High School, were named top schools in the country and
18 awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School designation in
19 2022; the higher educational needs of the Panhandle's residents are
20 served by the nationally recognized Texas Tech University Health
21 Sciences Center and West Texas A&M University, as well as Amarillo
22 College, Frank Phillips College, and Clarendon College; and

23 WHEREAS, The Panhandle features a variety of notable cultural
24 and recreational attractions; Amarillo supports the Lone Star
25 Ballet and the Amarillo Symphony, and the city's many museums
26 include the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum, the Don
27 Harrington Discovery Center, the Texas Air and Space Museum, the

1 Amarillo Railroad Museum, the Amarillo Museum of Art, and the
2 Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian; the Panhandle-Plains
3 Historical Museum in Canyon houses more than two million artifacts
4 that evoke the heritage of the region, while Palo Duro Canyon State
5 Park hosts the outdoor musical drama *Texas*, which portrays the
6 struggles and triumphs of area settlers in the 19th century; Dumas
7 draws visitors from across the region for its Dogie Days every June,
8 and Stratford, the county seat of Sherman County, hosts its popular
9 Jamboree each July; and

10 WHEREAS, The people of the Texas Panhandle are blessed to
11 live in a region of abundant natural resources and windswept
12 beauty, and they may indeed take great pride in the important
13 contributions they have made and continue to make to the history,
14 culture, and prosperity of Texas; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize February 20 and 21, 2023, as Panhandle
17 Days at the State Capitol and extend to those attending the
18 celebration sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful
19 event.