

By: Dean

H.R. No. 251

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Gregg County are marking the
2 150th anniversary of their county's founding on April 1, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Situated in the East Texas timberlands along the
4 Sabine River, Gregg County was originally inhabited by the Caddo
5 people and later by the Cherokee people; after Texas achieved
6 statehood in 1845, farmers from the southern United States settled
7 in the area, and throughout the 1870s, the Southern Pacific
8 Railroad, the International Railroad, and the Texas & Pacific
9 Railroad established Longview, Kilgore, and Gladewater, which
10 became prosperous communities; in 1873, the 13th Texas Legislature
11 passed a bill creating a new county from parts of Upshur and Rusk
12 Counties, with Longview as the county seat; and

13 WHEREAS, Cotton and timber were mainstays of the Gregg County
14 economy, and the discovery of the East Texas oilfield in 1931
15 brought new industry to the area; by 1935, there were approximately
16 15,000 wells and 95 refineries in the field, and the population had
17 grown from more than 16,700 in 1920 to just over 58,000 in 1940; the
18 oil boom prompted a multitude of civic improvements, including the
19 addition of a jail and courthouse in Longview and the creation of
20 Kilgore College, as well as the construction of a county hospital, a
21 highway, and numerous schools; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, Gregg County continues to thrive as a center
23 for oil production, manufacturing, and agriculture, and residents
24 and visitors alike flock to such attractions as the Great Texas

1 Balloon Race, the Gregg County Fair, and the Texas Shakespeare
2 Festival; and

3 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work together
4 to build an even brighter future, the people of Gregg County may
5 indeed take great pride in the role their community continues to
6 play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Gregg
9 County and extend to the county's residents sincere best wishes for
10 the future.