

By: Slaton

H.R. No. 592

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Wills Point are celebrating the
2 150th anniversary of their city's founding in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Wills Point traces its origins back to 1847, when
4 its namesake William A. Wills and his family settled in what would
5 later become Van Zandt County; the family traded their carriage, a
6 rarity on the frontier, for a log cabin, in order to provide a way
7 station for travelers on the Dallas-Shreveport Road; the community
8 was laid out at the highest elevation point between Fort Worth and
9 New Orleans when the route of the new railroad was determined, and
10 the town was officially established in 1873, the same year that the
11 Texas and Pacific Railroad line was built through the region; the
12 community thrived as the railway drew a number of businesses to the
13 area; and

14 WHEREAS, The Wills Point post office was established in 1870,
15 and the town's first newspaper began publication several years
16 later; in 1886, a four-room school, the largest in the county,
17 opened its doors; in the succeeding years, the city faced many
18 challenges, including three devastating tornadoes, but its
19 citizens overcame those difficulties to build a stronger, more
20 resilient community; and

21 WHEREAS, Wills Point has continued to thrive over the
22 decades, and today it is a dynamic community of more than 3,700
23 residents; retaining its early charm, the city boasts a picturesque
24 historic district that features brick streets, a railroad depot

1 museum, and the original Wills log cabin; residents and visitors
2 alike can enjoy the cultural and recreational opportunities
3 afforded by the Wills Point Visual and Performing Arts Centre and by
4 Lake Tawakoni State Park; the Wills Point Chamber of Commerce also
5 puts on a variety of annual events, including community Halloween
6 and Christmas celebrations; and

7 WHEREAS, Wills Point has acquired a number of nicknames over
8 the years, including the Queen City of the Prairie, Gateway to East
9 Texas, and Gateway to Lake Tawakoni, and in 1995, it was designated
10 as the Bluebird Capital of Texas by the Texas Legislature; and

11 WHEREAS, Celebrating their history as they work to build an
12 even brighter future, the people of Wills Point are justifiably
13 proud of their community, and it is indeed fitting to recognize them
14 on this milestone anniversary; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Wills Point
17 and extend to its citizens sincere best wishes for the future; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the city as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.