

By: Price

H.R. No. 985

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud area residents are marking the 100th  
2 anniversary of the Sherman County Courthouse with a special  
3 centennial celebration on April 18, 2023; and

4           WHEREAS, Sherman County is located in the High Plains region  
5 of the northern Panhandle on the Oklahoma border, and it extends  
6 across 923 square miles of nearly level land covered in prairie  
7 grasses, sagebrush, and yucca; named after Sidney Sherman, a  
8 veteran of the Texas Revolution, the county was established by the  
9 Texas Legislature in 1876 from lands formerly assigned to Bexar  
10 County, and it was attached to Oldham County for administrative  
11 purposes until 1889, when it was officially organized; and

12           WHEREAS, The town of Coldwater was designated as the county  
13 seat in 1890, and later that year, a one-story stone courthouse was  
14 built in the small settlement to serve the county's 34 residents;  
15 the county seat was subsequently moved to Stratford, which is  
16 located 80 miles north of Amarillo in the northwestern part of the  
17 county; a two-story frame courthouse was erected there in 1901;  
18 that structure was destroyed by a fire in 1922, and plans were soon  
19 underway for the present-day facility; the Amarillo-based  
20 architectural firm of Parker & Rittenberry was chosen to design the  
21 new building, and under the leadership of contractor J. W.  
22 Mordecai, construction was completed in 1923; and

23           WHEREAS, The three-story concrete and brick courthouse is a  
24 fine example of classical revival style, featuring raised

1 basements, symmetrical facades, and ionic columns; the exterior is  
2 composed of running bond brick and cast stone detailing; in 2008,  
3 the building was recognized by the Texas Historical Commission as a  
4 Recorded Texas Historic Landmark; the centennial celebration on  
5 April 18 is taking place on the courthouse lawn, and it will include  
6 speakers, flag presentations, and performances by Stratford and  
7 Texhoma students; and

8         WHEREAS, Nearing the county seat of Stratford, a sign  
9 proclaims, "The Home of God, Grass, and Grit," reflecting the  
10 strength and determination of Sherman County's citizens, who have  
11 suffered many storms and droughts over the years, including the  
12 Dust Bowl of the 1930s; today, nothing remains of Coldwater, the  
13 original county seat, except for a tiny cemetery; according to the  
14 2020 U.S. census, the county is home to nearly 3,000 residents;  
15 notable communities include Stratford as well as Texhoma, which  
16 straddles the Texas-Oklahoma border; the area's soils are dark and  
17 loamy, with clayey subsoils that are rich in hardened calcium  
18 deposits, and the county's economy is primarily agriculturally  
19 based; many of its residents grow crops and raise livestock that  
20 help feed our nation and the world; and

21         WHEREAS, For more than a century, the Sherman County  
22 Courthouse has stood as a symbol of the resilience of the people of  
23 Sherman County, and it is a pleasure to join in celebrating the  
24 important role it has played in the community; now, therefore, be it

25         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Sherman  
27 County Courthouse and commend all those associated with the

H.R. No. 985

1 centennial celebrations for their noteworthy efforts.