

By: Springer

S.R. No. 50

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The North Texas State Hospital has provided mental
2 health services to the public for a century; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1922, the first patient was admitted to the
4 facility, known briefly as the Northwest Texas Insane Asylum before
5 its designation as the Wichita Falls State Hospital; it was well
6 equipped for its day, offering surgery, radiology, laboratory
7 analysis, electrotherapy, and hydrotherapy; by 1930, a staff of
8 7 doctors and nearly 100 attendants served a population of more
9 than 1,500 patients; most personnel lived on the 940-acre campus,
10 which encompassed a farm that made the community almost entirely
11 self-sustaining during the Great Depression; and

12 WHEREAS, The hospital expanded to nearly 100 buildings by the
13 1940s, and during wartime labor shortages, a reduced staff worked
14 long hours to care for approximately 2,400 patients; conditions
15 improved, and in 1951, an annex to serve geriatric patients was
16 opened in Vernon; the number of residents decreased over subsequent
17 decades with the advent of effective psychotropic medications and
18 access to community programs and nursing home care; the hospital
19 was able to increase its service area from 23 to 53 counties in the
20 1980s, and Vernon State Hospital was redefined as the state's
21 forensic psychiatric facility; and

22 WHEREAS, In the late 1990s, the Texas Department of Mental
23 Health and Mental Retardation undertook efficiency reforms and
24 combined the administrations in Wichita Falls and Vernon as North

1 Texas State Hospital; today, it includes the Wichita Falls campus,
2 the main Vernon campus, and the Vernon-South Campus; NTSH provides
3 inpatient care for those referred by the local mental health
4 authority, as well as forensic psychiatry and competency
5 restoration services for adolescents and adults in the criminal
6 justice system; and

7 WHEREAS, Committed to excellence in mental health care, North
8 Texas State Hospital has made a positive difference in the lives of
9 countless people, and its 100th anniversary provides a fitting
10 opportunity to recognize its many contributions to the communities
11 it has served; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
13 hereby commemorate the centennial of North Texas State Hospital and
14 extend to all those associated with the hospital sincere best
15 wishes for the future; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the hospital as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas Senate.