

By: Sparks

S.R. No. 145

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Midland and Odessa are gathering  
2 in Austin from February 6 to 8, 2023, to celebrate Midland-Odessa  
3 Days at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Set only 20 miles apart in the ranching and oil  
5 country of West Texas, these vibrant Texas cities got their start as  
6 stops on the Texas and Pacific Railway in the 1880s; by 1890,  
7 Midland was one of the most important centers for shipping cattle in  
8 Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Odessa began its rapid growth with the discovery of  
10 oil in the Permian Basin in the 1920s, and by 1929, Midland was home  
11 to 36 oil companies; today, Midland continues to be the financial  
12 and administrative capital of the Permian Basin, while Odessa  
13 remains the center for the region's oil processing and  
14 distribution; and

15 WHEREAS, Midland and Odessa are the primary cities located in  
16 the Permian Basin, which is one of the largest oil producing regions  
17 in the world and accounts for 40 percent of production in the United  
18 States; and

19 WHEREAS, Odessa and Midland boast many fine historical and  
20 cultural attractions; in Odessa, the Presidential Archives and  
21 Leadership Library is the only museum in the nation dedicated to the  
22 history of the office of the presidency; the families of both Bush  
23 presidents have called Midland and Odessa home, and the archive  
24 features a restored house where the Bush family once resided; and

1           WHEREAS, The Ellen Noël Art Museum, one of only two  
2 Smithsonian affiliates in Texas, features world-class exhibits  
3 year-round, and the Parker House Museum evokes the life of a  
4 prominent Texas ranching family; the Haley Memorial Library &  
5 History Center houses the first bell to hang in the Alamo and vast  
6 resources of oral and written archives about the cowboy and the  
7 American Southwest; and

8           WHEREAS, Situated between Midland and Odessa is the Wagner  
9 Noël Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art facility boasting a  
10 total of 2,000 seats between its theater and recital hall, which  
11 brings in myriad shows to impress a variety of audiences; and

12           WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the Stonehenge  
13 replica on The University of Texas of the Permian Basin campus, as  
14 well as live productions at the replica of Shakespeare's Globe  
15 Theatre on the campus of Odessa College; furthermore, the Midland  
16 Festival Ballet, the West Texas Symphony, and the award-winning  
17 Midland Community Theatre offer live performances that inspire and  
18 entertain; and

19           WHEREAS, The 99-acre I-20 Wildlife Preserve Jenna Welch  
20 Nature Study Center and the 49-acre Sibley Nature Center celebrate  
21 the nature and history of the Permian Basin while showcasing the  
22 beauty and wildlife of the region; Odessa is host to the Spire, a  
23 1950s mid-century architecture sign that was refurbished in 2019  
24 and is the tallest lighted public art structure in Texas; and

25           WHEREAS, The White-Pool House is the first residential home  
26 in Odessa and proudly displays items from both the White and Pool  
27 families; also located in Odessa and enjoyed by more than 10,000

1 visitors every year is the nation's second-largest meteor crater  
2 and its adjoining museum; and

3       WHEREAS, Midland's Museum of the Southwest offers displays of  
4 the art and archaeology of the American Southwest, as well as the  
5 winning Kentucky Derby history of one of Midland's prominent  
6 families; the interactive exhibits in the Permian Basin Petroleum  
7 Museum present the geology and history of oil while helping inspire  
8 entrepreneurs of the future; and

9       WHEREAS, Odessa features the Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza, which  
10 honors the former Navy SEAL who was born in Odessa, and which pays  
11 tribute to the past, current, and future veterans who have served  
12 our country so unselfishly; the Midland Army Air Field Museum  
13 preserves the history of the largest bombardier training school  
14 during World War II and also highlights the contributions that West  
15 Texans made to the war effort; and

16       WHEREAS, For more than a century, the dynamic cities of  
17 Midland and Odessa have been at the economic and cultural hub of  
18 West Texas, and their citizens continue to celebrate their rich  
19 history as they work hard to build a prosperous future; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature  
22 hereby recognize February 6-8, 2023, as Midland-Odessa Days at the  
23 State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.