

By: Pitts

H.C.R. No. 60

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Ellis County are gathered in
2 Austin to celebrate Ellis County Day at the State Capitol, and this
3 festive event offers an ideal opportunity to recognize the county's
4 many fine attributes; and

5 WHEREAS, Located in North Central Texas and including the
6 rich soils of the Blackland Belt, the 953 square miles of Ellis
7 County landscape vary from gently rolling terrain to a level plain;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Created by the state legislature in 1849, Ellis
10 County takes its name from Richard Ellis, president of the
11 convention that declared Texas' independence from Mexico; in 1850
12 the first Ellis County Court authorized an expenditure of \$59 for
13 the construction of a courthouse; that structure was replaced in
14 1895 with an elaborate red sandstone and granite building still in
15 use today and celebrated as one of the most beautiful historic
16 public buildings in Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, The arrival of the railroad in 1871 stimulated
18 agricultural production, and in the early 20th century Ellis County
19 ranked as one of the chief cotton-growing areas in the country;
20 today the county's diversified economy rests on agribusiness,
21 commerce, and industry; the city of Midlothian, home to such firms
22 as Chapparral Steel Company, Texas Industries, Holcim Texas, and
23 Ash Grove Cement LP, has been designated the Cement and Steel
24 Capital of Texas; and

1 WHEREAS, The people of Ellis County, eager to preserve their
2 heritage, have begun the process of restoring many historic homes
3 and landmarks to their original grandeur, and a number of
4 communities have participated in the Texas Main Street Project, a
5 program to rehabilitate and revitalize historic downtown and
6 commercial districts; and

7 WHEREAS, Waxahachie, the county seat, is affectionately
8 known as the Gingerbread City because of its lovingly maintained
9 Victorian homes, many of them framed by the colorful trees and
10 shrubs that have also caused the town to be known as the Crape
11 Myrtle Capital of Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, Waxahachie is home as well to one of the few
13 remaining Chautauqua auditoriums; constructed at the dawn of the
14 20th century, the hall hosted cultural and religious events and
15 continues to draw thousands of visitors each year; and

16 WHEREAS, Ennis, situated in the eastern part of the county,
17 was designated the Bluebonnet Capital of Texas by the Texas
18 Legislature in 1997; a cultural center for descendants of Czech
19 farmers who first settled on the Blackland Prairie in 1875, Ennis is
20 the site of the National Polka Festival, as well as the Texas
21 Motorplex, a professional and amateur track that offers world-class
22 auto racing; and

23 WHEREAS, Ennis's progressive economic environment has
24 attracted industries such as Sterilite Corporation, Elk Roofing,
25 Leggett & Platt, Inc., Atlas Soundolier, Ennis Steel Industries,
26 Inc., Lowe's Distribution Center, CVS Pharmacy Distribution
27 Center, and a state-of-the-art power plant, Ennis-Tractebel

1 Electricity and Gas International; and

2 WHEREAS, Known as the "Gateway to Ellis County," the city of
3 Red Oak balances the charm and comfort of small-town life with
4 convenient access to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
5 and the metroplex; with a thriving local economy, sustained
6 residential growth, a low crime rate, and an award-winning school
7 district, which has earned "Recognized" status, this community is
8 an ideal place in which to live, work, and raise a family; and

9 WHEREAS, For several decades, prime movie locations in Ellis
10 County have drawn film production crews, and the Los Angeles Film
11 Makers Association has recognized Waxahachie as "The Best Little
12 Hollywood in Texas" and as "Vintage America in Mint Condition"; and

13 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike can learn about the
14 region's past while touring the Ellis County Museum, the Railroad
15 and Cultural Heritage Museum, and the Larkin Newton Cabin, all of
16 which showcase myriad antiques and artifacts that tell the
17 captivating story of Ellis County; and

18 WHEREAS, Ellis County is one of the Lone Star State's great
19 assets, and even as its dynamic citizens reflect with satisfaction
20 on their proud accomplishments, they can also look forward with
21 anticipation to the new challenges and opportunities that lie
22 ahead; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby recognize March 4, 2003, as Ellis County Day at the State
25 Capitol and extend best wishes to all Ellis County citizens for a
26 bright and prosperous future.