

By: McCall

H.R. No. 199

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, It is a distinct privilege to welcome the men and
2 women who have traveled to the State Capitol from Collin County to
3 celebrate their community's contributions to the Lone Star State;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Located almost entirely within the state's
6 Blackland Prairie, the area of present-day Collin County was long
7 inhabited by the Caddo Indians; in the early 1840s, the region began
8 to attract settlers affiliated with the Peters colony; both the
9 county and its seat, McKinney, were named in honor of the pioneer
10 settler Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration of
11 Independence; and

12 WHEREAS, Farmers were drawn to the area by its fertile soil
13 and readily available timber and water; by 1872, the Houston and
14 Texas Central Railway reached the county, opening the door to
15 agricultural trade and initiating a period of economic growth that
16 spanned half a century; and

17 WHEREAS, Recovery from the Great Depression was aided by the
18 work of the Texas Research Foundation, which was created to improve
19 farming practices through the use of scientific discoveries; in
20 1946 the foundation began to establish laboratories and test fields
21 at Renner, in the southwestern part of the county; that same year,
22 the Collin County Soil Conservation District was formed and began
23 planning the construction of 144 flood-retarding projects,
24 including the 21,000-acre Lake Lavon; and

1 WHEREAS, Located just north of the Dallas metroplex, Collin
2 County has experienced an 86 percent population increase over the
3 last decade; it currently ranks as the fastest-growing county in
4 Texas and the 11th fastest in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, McKinney, the county seat, was established in 1845
6 and offers visitors a host of interesting attractions, including
7 the Collin County Youth and Farm Museum and the Heard Natural
8 Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary; McKinney is also home to
9 such beautiful outdoor recreation areas as Wilson Creek Park and
10 Finch Park and is adjacent to Lake Lavon; and

11 WHEREAS, The largest city in the county, Plano has a
12 population of some 222,000 people, nearly double the number in
13 1990; visitors to Plano can enjoy the recently restored downtown
14 square, which features brick sidewalks, turn-of-the-century
15 lampposts, and numerous specialty shops, galleries, and
16 restaurants, or travel to the outskirts of town to visit Southfork
17 Ranch, which was made famous by the internationally known
18 television series, *Dallas*; and

19 WHEREAS, The residents of Collin County can take justifiable
20 pride in their county's proud heritage and thriving, diversified
21 economy as they look forward to a bright and promising future; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 18, 2003, as Collin County
25 Day at the State Capitol and extend to its citizens sincere best
26 wishes for an enjoyable visit to Austin.