

By: King

H.R. No. 363

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Parker County are visiting
2 Austin on March 3, 2003, to celebrate Parker County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Created by the Texas Legislature in 1855, the county
5 was named for pioneer and state representative Isaac Parker; Mr.
6 Parker was the uncle of Cynthia Ann Parker, who was kidnapped by
7 Indians during the Texas Revolution; raised among the Comanches,
8 she eventually became the mother of the great chief Quanah Parker;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, When settlers began moving into Parker County in the
11 1840s, the area was the domain of the Comanches and Kiowas; the
12 county retained its frontier character for a number of years, with
13 Indian raids continuing into the 1870s; during these raids farming
14 and ranching families would take refuge in Weatherford, the county
15 seat; and

16 WHEREAS, Evidence of the past is readily apparent in
17 Weatherford, which has been designated a Texas Main Street City by
18 the Texas Historical Commission and whose town square is dominated
19 by the imposing 1886 Parker County Courthouse; the Victorian
20 building was designed by Texas architect Wesley Clarke Dobson and
21 was constructed of locally quarried limestone; and

22 WHEREAS, Parker County citizen Oliver Loving, the famed
23 cattleman who gave his name to the Goodnight-Loving Trail and who
24 was the inspiration for the book *Lonesome Dove*, is buried in

1 Weatherford's Greenwood Cemetery; the cemetery is also the resting
2 place of Mary Martin, renowned star of musical theater and a
3 Weatherford native; and

4 WHEREAS, Annual events in Parker County include Frontier Days
5 in June, the Peach Festival in July, and the Civil War weekend in
6 September; the Santa Fe Depot, the Chandor Gardens, and Holland
7 Lake Park are also fun and interesting to visit; and

8 WHEREAS, Today the Parker County economy is based on
9 agribusiness and manufacturing; agricultural products include beef
10 cattle, dairy cows, horses, peanuts, watermelons, pecans, and
11 peaches; the largest pecan tree in the United States, some 900 to
12 1,100 years old, stands in Weatherford; and

13 WHEREAS, Parker County holds a notable place in Texas
14 frontier history and in the development of the Lone Star State, and
15 its citizens are proudly preserving and building on this
16 outstanding legacy; it is thus a great pleasure to welcome the
17 delegation with us today and to commend their public spirit and
18 their eminent contributions; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2003, as Parker County Day at
21 the State Capitol and extend to this delegation warmest best wishes
22 for an enjoyable and memorable visit.