

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 521

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The residents of the city of Longview have for more  
2 than a century committed themselves to the pursuit of excellence,  
3 and these outstanding Texans have made many important contributions  
4 to the culture and economy of the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, Longview, which today serves as the county seat of  
6 Gregg County, was founded in 1871, shortly after O. H. Methvin  
7 deeded 100 acres of land to the Southern Pacific Railroad; within a  
8 few short years the city became an important transportation center,  
9 moving enormous quantities of such key commodities as timber, iron  
10 ore, cotton, and agricultural crops throughout the South; and

11           WHEREAS, This runaway economic growth came to a temporary  
12 halt during the Great Depression due to the economic conditions of  
13 the time as well as to the changing nature of the railroad business;  
14 its citizens would not be discouraged for long, however, as in the  
15 early 1930s the area was transformed by the discovery of oil--the  
16 world's largest oil field known to exist at that time; and

17           WHEREAS, During World War II, Longview residents provided  
18 uniquely critical support to the United States military; in 1942  
19 they helped to build the Big Inch pipeline, which over the next  
20 three years would transport more than 261 million barrels of crude  
21 oil to the East Coast for refining, thereby ensuring an  
22 uninterrupted supply of gas and oil to the U.S. armed forces; in the  
23 years that followed the Allied victory, the Longview business  
24 community embarked on an ambitious drive to diversify its

1 petrochemical industry and to attract manufacturing plants and  
2 distribution centers; and

3         WHEREAS, Ideally situated in the Piney Woods of East Texas, a  
4 few miles north of the Sabine River, Longview is also renowned for  
5 its picturesque vistas, and for 25 years it has played host to the  
6 Great Texas Balloon Race, the longest-running hot-air balloon event  
7 in the Lone Star State; the city also features many important  
8 historical and cultural attractions, including the Longview Museum  
9 of Fine Arts, the Gregg County Historical Museum, and the R. G.  
10 LeTourneau Museum on the campus of LeTourneau University, and it is  
11 home to such thriving performing arts groups as Opera Longview, the  
12 Longview Ballet Theatre, the Longview Community Theater, and the  
13 Longview Symphony Orchestra; and

14         WHEREAS, Since its inception more than a century ago, the  
15 community of Longview has been an outstanding place in which to  
16 live, work, and raise a family, and it is most fitting to pay  
17 tribute to the city and its citizens at this time; now, therefore,  
18 be it

19         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby recognize March 25, 2003, as Longview Day at the  
21 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for  
22 an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.