

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 441**

**WHEREAS**, For more than a century, residents of the City of Longview have committed themselves to the pursuit of excellence, and these outstanding Texans have made many important contributions to the culture and economy of the Lone Star State; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, During World War II, Longview residents provided uniquely critical support to the United States military; in 1942 they helped to build the Big Inch pipeline, which over the next three years would transport more than 261 million barrels of crude oil to the East Coast for refining, thereby ensuring an uninterrupted supply of gas and oil to the United States armed forces; in the years that followed the Allied victory, the Longview business community embarked on an ambitious drive to diversify its petrochemical industry and to attract manufacturing plants and distribution centers; and

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

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

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

Ratliff

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 25, 2003.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate