

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 60

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On May 6, 2006, current and former residents of the
2 Doans community in Wilbarger County are gathering for the 123rd
3 annual Doans May Day Picnic in Vernon; and

4 WHEREAS, Considered the oldest ongoing historical
5 celebration in Texas, the event traces its history back to a simple
6 picnic on May 1, 1884, which was enjoyed by a half-dozen people in a
7 grove of trees near the Red River; and

8 WHEREAS, Starting a tradition that continues today, a queen
9 was crowned at the 1911 festivities, which included carnivals,
10 rodeos, airplane rides, barbecues, storytelling by early settlers,
11 and political speeches; stores closed so that employees could
12 attend, and later it became a two-day affair with Sunday morning
13 services; more than a century later, the highlight of this event
14 remains the coronation of a king and queen, and selected for this
15 honor in 2006 are King Parker Thomas, from the House of Johnson, and
16 Queen Brittany Michelle, from the House of Dockery; and

17 WHEREAS, The first settlers in Wilbarger County were members
18 of the Doan family who arrived in 1878 and established a trading
19 post known as Doan's Store at a Red River crossing on the Chisholm
20 Trail; the original adobe building, owned by Corwin Doan, was
21 renovated by the Wilbarger Historical Commission and is the oldest
22 structure in the county; and

23 WHEREAS, Nicknamed "the jumping off place" by trail drivers,
24 Doan's Crossing thrived as the last chance to buy supplies before

1 travelers entered Indian territory; the modest settlement grew to
2 include supply stores, a post office, a two-story hotel, a saloon, a
3 drug store, a wagon yard, a blacksmith, a restaurant, a school, a
4 chapel, and several homes; and

5 WHEREAS, Jonathan and Corwin Doan and their families were
6 Quakers who enhanced community relations by befriending local
7 Indians, learning their language, and establishing lifelong
8 friendships; Corwin Doan was appointed Indian agent and hosted
9 visits by Quanah Parker and other famous chiefs and their tribes;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Indians would trade only with the Doan family,
12 who also counted among their regular customers the trail drivers
13 that herded six million cattle past the trading post during the last
14 two decades of the century; in 1931, a granite monument was placed
15 near Doan's Store in honor of those courageous trail drivers; and

16 WHEREAS, The people of Doans take justifiable pride in their
17 community and the immeasurable contributions its citizens have made
18 to the rich history and culture of the Lone Star State, and it is
19 indeed fitting that they be acknowledged at this time; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
22 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 123rd Doans
23 May Day Picnic and extend to all celebrants best wishes for an
24 enjoyable and memorable event.