

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 84

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Commerce are gathering at
2 the State Capitol on February 1 and 2, 2005, to celebrate their
3 community's heritage and to share with fellow Texans their rich
4 history and latest achievements; and

5 WHEREAS, Thanks in great part to J. H. "Si" Jackson, who
6 opened the area's first store, Commerce was originally settled in
7 1864; incorporated on September 25, 1885, the town thrived with the
8 arrival two years later of the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad,
9 which connected residents to Texarkana, Sherman, and Fort Worth and
10 helped establish Commerce as a viable commercial center; and

11 WHEREAS, From its earliest days as an isolated settlement,
12 Commerce has continued to grow and keep pace with its changing needs
13 as evidenced by the numerous city improvement projects that have
14 been completed or are currently underway, including a new City
15 Hall, a new police and fire complex, and the Northeast Texas
16 Children's Museum; the town's development in the private sector is
17 guided by a carefully outlined strategic plan that addresses
18 housing and industrial development as well as the revitalization of
19 the university/downtown corridor; and

20 WHEREAS, Through the years Commerce has retained its unique
21 character and charm, and the high quality of life that the area
22 offers has made it a most desirable community in which to live,
23 work, and raise a family; and

24 WHEREAS, The resplendent natural beauty of Northeast Texas

1 and the proximity to Cooper Lake make Commerce an ideal vacation
2 spot, where visitors and residents alike may explore a host of
3 recreational activities, including camping, waterskiing, and
4 fishing; in addition, Commerce is home to "Max," the second largest
5 bois d'arc tree in Texas and the guest of honor at the Bois d'Arc
6 Bash, an annual celebration held during the last weekend in
7 September; and

8 WHEREAS, Texas A&M University-Commerce offers opportunities
9 for educational and cultural enrichment and is complemented by such
10 resources as the six-story Gee Library, a performing arts center
11 with two theaters, and the Jerry D. Morris Recreation Center; the
12 university will soon boast a state-of-the-art science building and
13 planetarium, as well; and

14 WHEREAS, Blessed with a dynamic and friendly citizenry,
15 abundant natural resources, and a thriving economy, the Commerce
16 community is one of the Lone Star State's great assets, and even as
17 its residents take pride and satisfaction in the area's remarkable
18 success, they look forward to the new challenges and opportunities
19 of the 21st century; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 1 and 2, 2005, as Commerce
22 Days at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the Commerce
23 delegation.