

By: McCall

H.R. No. 397

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Collin County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on March 1, 2005, to celebrate their community's
3 contributions to the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Located almost entirely within the state's
5 Blackland Prairie, the area that is now Collin County was long
6 inhabited by the Caddo Indians; in the early 1840s, the region began
7 to attract settlers affiliated with the Peters colony, and both the
8 county and its seat, McKinney, were named in honor of the pioneer
9 settler Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration of
10 Independence; and

11 WHEREAS, Farmers were drawn to the area by its fertile soil
12 and available timber and water; by 1872, the Houston and Texas
13 Central Railway reached the county, opening the door to
14 agricultural trade and initiating a period of economic growth that
15 spanned half a century; and

16 WHEREAS, Recovery from the Great Depression was aided by the
17 work of the Texas Research Foundation, which was created to improve
18 farming practices through the use of scientific discoveries; in
19 1946, the foundation began to establish laboratories and test
20 fields at Renner, in the southwestern part of the county; that same
21 year, the Collin County Soil Conservation District was formed and
22 began planning the construction of 144 flood-retarding projects,
23 including the 21,000-acre Lake Lavon; and

24 WHEREAS, Located just 30 miles south of the Red River, Collin

1 County has experienced a 34 percent population increase in the last
2 five years, and it currently ranks as the fastest-growing Texas
3 county of those with a population of more than 50,000; and

4 WHEREAS, The city of Allen, home of Olympic gold medal
5 winner, Carly Patterson, is one of the fastest-growing cities in
6 North Texas, with more than 60,000 citizens; its citizens are
7 dedicated to the development of a quality community with a
8 top-ranked education system, family-oriented residential areas,
9 innovative recreational facilities, and premier business parks;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Before its official founding, the city of Frisco was
12 a campground for Native Americans, and its original footpath became
13 the "Texas Road," a dirt highway for travelers in prairie schooners
14 between the Red River and Austin; after the arrival of the railroad,
15 Frisco became a commercial hub for farmers and ranchers in the area;
16 with a population today of nearly 60,000 residents, it has joined
17 the ranks as one of the fastest-growing cities in North Texas and is
18 home to a number of corporation headquarters, regional offices,
19 minor league baseball, and junior league hockey; and

20 WHEREAS, McKinney, the county seat, is the fastest-growing
21 city in the nation of those cities with a population of at least
22 50,000; established in 1845, it offers visitors a host of
23 interesting attractions, including the Collin County Youth and Farm
24 Museum and the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary;
25 adjacent to Lake Lavon, McKinney is also home to a number of
26 beautiful outdoor recreation areas, including Wilson Creek Park and
27 Finch Park; and

1 WHEREAS, The largest city in the county, Plano, boasts a
2 population of more than 237,000 residents; visitors to the
3 flourishing city can enjoy its restored downtown square, which
4 features brick sidewalks, turn-of-the-century lampposts, and
5 numerous specialty shops, galleries, and restaurants; and

6 WHEREAS, The residents of Collin County have played an
7 important part in preserving their region's proud heritage and
8 thriving, diversified economy, and it is a pleasure to honor them as
9 they look forward to a bright and promising future; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2005, as Collin County Day at
13 the State Capitol and extend to its citizens here today sincere best
14 wishes for an enjoyable visit to Austin.