

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A delegation of proud Texans has traveled to Austin
2 to celebrate Texas Panhandle Day at the State Capitol on March 1,
3 2005; and

4 WHEREAS, Rich in history, this spectacular region of vast
5 scenic plains is known for its traditional ranch lands, high-plains
6 agriculture, large stretches of oil and gas reserves, major
7 industry, and a nationally recognized workforce with an ethic that
8 is beyond reproach; and

9 WHEREAS, Citizens of the Panhandle have also demonstrated
10 notable patriotism, and the brave sacrifices in combat of Marine
11 Lance Corporal Aaron C. Austin of Sunray, Air Force Captain Eric B.
12 Das of Amarillo, Marine Lance Corporal Seth Huston of Perryton,
13 Army Specialist Taylor J. Burk of Amarillo, and Marine Captain Paul
14 C. Alaniz of Dumas have served to make the Panhandle, the great
15 State of Texas, the United States, and the world safer for
16 democracy; and

17 WHEREAS, Amarillo has particularly been affected by the loss
18 of several community leaders, namely, Jim Henson, the Reverend
19 Jesse Cortez, and the Reverend Michael DeVaughn, each of whom
20 leaves behind an indelible mark on the community that ensures their
21 contributions will not be forgotten; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to exemplary citizens and leaders, the
23 Texas Panhandle also is home to excellent educational institutions
24 whose successes ensure that the area will continue to prosper; West

1 Texas A&M University is one of the premiere universities in West
2 Texas and boasts ever-increasing enrollments, nationally
3 recognized programs and faculty, and outstanding graduates;
4 Amarillo College, which continues to be one of the finest community
5 colleges in the country, and Texas Tech Medical School, Texas Tech
6 Health Science Center, Texas Tech Pharmacy School, Frank Phillips
7 College, and Clarendon College are all outstanding educational
8 institutions in the Texas Panhandle; and

9 WHEREAS, The Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital Complex has been
10 ranked as one of the top 150 hospitals in the nation with its
11 world-class facilities and faculty; and

12 WHEREAS, Outstanding attractions in the area include the
13 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, located on the campus of West
14 Texas A&M University in Canyon; the largest history museum in the
15 state, it will be the only museum in the western United States to
16 host the highly sought after "Capturing Western Legends" art
17 exhibit, a collection of the works of Charles M. Russell and
18 Frederic Remington; and

19 WHEREAS, Stretching through the heart of the Panhandle is
20 Palo Duro Canyon, the second-largest canyon in the country, which
21 boasts spectacular views and reveals, through its exposed strata, a
22 geologic record spanning 250 million years; during the summer,
23 visitors to Palo Duro Canyon can also enjoy the nation's most
24 attended outdoor drama, "Texas Legacies," which captures some of
25 the state's epic heritage; and

26 WHEREAS, Amarillo, the region's principal city, is a dynamic
27 urban center that affords a wide array of cultural amenities;

1 contributing to Amarillo's economic vitality are a Bell Helicopter
2 tilt-rotor assembly center, where the V-22 Osprey and the US101
3 presidential helicopters are assembled, as well as the only
4 assembly/disassembly plant for the nation's nuclear weapons
5 arsenal, a facility operated by BWXT Pantex for the U.S. Department
6 of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration; and

7 WHEREAS, Amarillo continues to boast a world-class symphony
8 orchestra, ballet, and opera, which will soon be performing at the
9 new Amarillo Globe News Southwest Center for the Performing Arts, a
10 venue that will be second to none in amenities and class; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 strong, Panhandle residents prize
12 the myriad opportunities made possible by their modern cities and
13 industry while continuing to cherish their region's enduring and
14 majestic natural beauty; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2005, as Texas Panhandle Day
17 at the State Capitol and extend to all involved warmest best wishes
18 for an enjoyable and memorable visit.

Swinford
Smithee
Chisum

H.R. No. 520

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 520 was adopted by the House on March 1, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House