

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 520

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.