

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 879

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Ellis County are gathering at the State  
2 Capitol on March 29, 2005, to celebrate the contributions of this  
3 fine region of the Lone Star State; and

4           WHEREAS, Located in North Central Texas, Ellis County was  
5 officially established by the state legislature on December 20,  
6 1849; named for Richard Ellis, the president of the Convention of  
7 1836 in which Texas declared its independence from Mexico, the  
8 county originally profited from cattle raising because of its mild  
9 climate and native grasses; and

10           WHEREAS, The arrival of the railroad in 1871 stimulated  
11 agricultural production, and in the early 20th century, Ellis  
12 County ranked as one of the chief cotton-producing regions in the  
13 country; today the economy is balanced between manufacturing,  
14 agribusiness, and commerce; and

15           WHEREAS, The people of Ellis County are dedicated to  
16 preserving their rich heritage; historic sites of interest include  
17 the Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, the Larkin Newton Cabin,  
18 and the Ellis County Museum, and several communities participate in  
19 the Texas Main Street Project, a program to rehabilitate and  
20 revitalize historic downtowns and commercial districts; and

21           WHEREAS, The city of Waxahachie is thought of by many as the  
22 Gingerbread City because of its lovingly maintained Victorian  
23 homes, many of them framed by colorful trees and shrubs, and the  
24 town is also the Crape Myrtle Capital of Texas; the city hosts many

1 events that attract more than a half-million visitors each year,  
2 including the Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival, the Bob  
3 Phillips Texas Country Reporter Festival, Bethlehem Revisited, the  
4 Candlelight Home Tour, and the Gingerbread Trail Historic Home  
5 Tour; and

6         WHEREAS, A global leader in manufacturing, Waxahachie claims  
7 among its thriving business community the following companies:  
8 Performance Pipe, Rock-Tenn Corporation, Saint-Gobain Containers,  
9 United States Aluminum Corporation of Texas, Cardinal IG, Better  
10 Bath Components, Owens-Corning, Burleson Honey, Dartco of Texas,  
11 Georgia Pacific, AEP Industries, and Hardie Company; and

12         WHEREAS, Ennis, located in the eastern part of the county,  
13 was designated the Bluebonnet City of Texas by the state  
14 legislature in 1997; a cultural center for descendants of Czech  
15 farmers who first settled in the region in 1875, the community also  
16 appeals to visitors who are drawn to such attractions as the  
17 National Polka Festival and the Texas Motorplex, a professional and  
18 amateur track that offers world-class auto racing; and

19         WHEREAS, The city's progressive economy has brought in  
20 numerous industry leaders, including Sterilite Corporation, Elk  
21 Roofing, Legget & Platt, Inc., Atlas Soundolier, Ennis Steel  
22 Industries, Inc., Lowe's Distribution Center, CVS Pharmacy  
23 Distribution Center, Ennis-Tractebel Electricity and Gas  
24 International, and Koyo Steering Systems of Texas; and

25         WHEREAS, Other vibrant towns that dot the landscape of Ellis  
26 County are Midlothian, Red Oak, Ferris, and Ovilla; Midlothian, a  
27 center for cement and steel production, is home to firms such as

1 Chaparral Steel Company, Texas Industries, Holcim Texas, Ash Grove  
2 Cement LP, Target Distribution Center, Toys R Us, American National  
3 Power, Ennis Inc., and Free Trade Zone No. 113; and

4 WHEREAS, Red Oak, with its flourishing local economy,  
5 sustained residential growth, low crime rate, and award-winning  
6 school district, balances the charm and comfort of small-town life  
7 with convenient access to the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex; and

8 WHEREAS, Ellis County has long benefited from the dedication  
9 of its fine citizens, who are ever mindful of the past while  
10 actively preparing for a productive future, and it is a pleasure to  
11 honor them on this special day; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 29, 2005, as Ellis County Day at  
14 the State Capitol and extend to all those associated with this happy  
15 day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit.