

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 67

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on February 2, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate