

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 251

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In addition to exemplary citizens and leaders, the Texas Panhandle also is home to excellent educational institutions whose successes ensure that the area will continue to prosper; West Texas A&M University is one of the premiere universities in West Texas and boasts ever-increasing enrollments, nationally recognized programs and faculty, and outstanding graduates; Amarillo College, which continues to be one of the finest community colleges in the country, and Texas Tech Medical School, Texas Tech Health Science Center, Texas Tech Pharmacy School, Frank Phillips College, and Clarendon College are all outstanding educational institutions in the Texas Panhandle; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Amarillo, the region's principal city, is a dynamic urban center that affords a wide array of cultural amenities; contributing to Amarillo's economic vitality are a

Bell Helicopter tilt-rotor assembly center, where the V-22 Osprey and the US101 presidential helicopters are assembled, as well as the only assembly/disassembly plant for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal, a facility operated by BWXT Pantex for the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration; and

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

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

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

Seliger, Duncan

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 1, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate