

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 353

WHEREAS, March 9, 2005, is Wood County Day at the State Capitol, and the Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Wood County in honoring their county's important contributions to our state; and

WHEREAS, Located in Northeast Texas at the western edge of the pine belt, Wood County was created and organized from Van Zandt County in 1850 and named for Governor George T. Wood; hilly and heavily forested with sandy and alluvial soils, the county is drained by the Sabine River and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, Before Anglo-American civilization, the area was home to the Caddo Indians; by the 1820s and 1830s, settlers began arriving, and in 1845, the village of Webster was established; the early arrivals were planters, but because it was difficult to transport cotton, ranching became the first profitable industry; and

WHEREAS, Railroads came to the area in the 1870s and 1880s, contributing to a growing population, as well as increasing demands on the area's lumber industry; specialized farming became a major industry after a sweet potato curing plant was established in 1913, and Christmas trees, hay, watermelons, poultry, and dairy products were soon added to the list of commodities being produced in the county; Jarvis Christian College was founded in Hawkins in 1912, and the discovery of oil near that community in 1940 brought still another lucrative business to the region; and

WHEREAS, This beautiful area of the state is one of the showplaces of East Texas and is best known as a recreational and retirement county; nicknamed "Lake Country" for the numerous aquatic recreational facilities in the county, Wood County attracts sportsmen from all over the world; the gigantic Lake Fork Reservoir is known as the "Best Big Bass Lake in the State," and a record-breaking largemouth bass was pulled from its waters in 1993; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Wood County are a lively and industrious people who are proud of their county's assets and of the communities they have built while maintaining the county's natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, These communities host year-round festivities honoring the county's heritage, crops, resources, and foliage; the festivals include the Quitman Dogwood Fiesta in March, as well as the Hawkins Pancake Festival, the Spring Trails in Winnsboro, the Fourth of July FreedomFest in Mineola, the Sweet Potato Festival in Golden, and the Winter Trails Christmas Parade in Winnsboro; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hogg Shrine State Park in Quitman recalls local and state history; it is named for the first native-born governor of Texas, James Stephen Hogg, who did much to strengthen public respect for law enforcement in the state and worked to establish the Texas Railroad Commission to enforce state antitrust laws and promote fair business practices; and

WHEREAS, Wood County Day is an appropriate occasion for the Texas Senate to recognize the county and to commend its residents for their achievements and the preservation of the county's many amenities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby recognize March 9, 2005, as Wood County Day at the State Capitol and join its citizens as they celebrate their county's valuable assets; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this occasion.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate