

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 485

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

**WHEREAS**, Located in north central Texas, Ellis County was officially established by the state legislature on December 20, 1849; named for Richard Ellis, the president of the Convention of 1836 in which Texas declared its independence from Mexico, the county originally profited from cattle raising because of its mild climate and native grasses; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, The City of Waxahachie is thought of by many as the Gingerbread City because of its lovingly maintained Victorian homes, many of them framed by colorful trees and shrubs, and the town is also the Crape Myrtle Capital of Texas; the city hosts many events that attract more than a half-million visitors each year, including the Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival, the Bob Phillips Texas Country Reporter Festival, Bethlehem Revisited, the Candlelight Home Tour, and the Gingerbread Trail Historic Home Tour; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Other vibrant towns that dot the landscape of Ellis County are Midlothian, Red Oak, Ferris, and Ovilla; Midlothian, a center for cement and steel production, is home to firms such as Chaparral Steel Company, Texas Industries, Holcim

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Texas, Ash Grove Cement LP, Target Distribution Center, Toys R Us, American National Power, Ennis Inc., and Free Trade Zone No. 113; and

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

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

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 29, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate