

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 156

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Paris and Lamar County are  
2 gathering in Austin to celebrate Paris/Lamar County Day at the  
3 State Capitol on March 28, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, The heart of the Red River Valley, the rolling  
5 pastureland of Lamar County was once home to the Caddo Indians; the  
6 region passed through French and Spanish hands in the 18th century,  
7 and the first Anglo-American settlers arrived in 1815; and

8 WHEREAS, Officially established by the Fifth Congress of the  
9 Republic of Texas, the county was organized by election on February  
10 1, 1841, and named for Mirabeau B. Lamar, the fourth president of  
11 the Republic; merchant George Wright donated 50 acres on the site of  
12 the town of Pinhook, and the town became the county seat in 1844; it  
13 was renamed Paris after Paris, France, by Thomas Poteet, an  
14 employee of Wright's; and

15 WHEREAS, Today Paris is a center for agribusiness, food  
16 processing, manufacturing, and teleservices, with such major  
17 employers as the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Campbell Soup  
18 Company, Sara Lee Bakery Group, TCIM, and Turner International  
19 Piping; the Paris Regional Medical Center, with more than 300 beds,  
20 two campuses, and a diverse medical staff, offers quality medical  
21 care to Northeast Texas and Southeast Oklahoma; one of the oldest  
22 junior colleges in Texas, Paris Junior College has been providing  
23 educational opportunities to the region since 1924; and

24 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy Paris's many fine

1 attractions; the city's replica of the Eiffel Tower stands 65 feet  
2 tall and was "Texanized" in 1998 with the placement of a cowboy hat  
3 on top; Culbertson Fountain in the Historic District on the Plaza  
4 contributed to the plaza being chosen as the prettiest in the State  
5 of Texas by *Texas Monthly* magazine; the Hayden Museum of American  
6 Art houses a permanent collection of graphic art, archival  
7 photography, and American chairs, and the Sam Bell Maxey House, the  
8 Scott Roden Home, the Wise House, and the Paris Union Station  
9 Railroad Depot are fine examples of historic architecture; and

10 WHEREAS, Annual celebrations in the county include Chaparral  
11 Square Dancing Weekend every Labor Day; the Red River Valley Fair  
12 and Exposition features five days of livestock shows, carnival  
13 rides, and live entertainment; 300 contestants, all full-time peace  
14 officers, participate annually in the All Police Rodeo; and the  
15 Tour de Paris bike rally stages events for all ages and levels of  
16 ambition; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1997 the Texas Legislature declared Lamar County  
18 the Crape Myrtle County Capital and Paris the Official Crape Myrtle  
19 City of the State of Texas, and with three lakes within 15 miles of  
20 Paris, Lamar County is a beautiful destination for visitors; and

21 WHEREAS, Living among the scenic lakes and rolling  
22 countryside of the beautiful Red River Valley, the residents of  
23 Paris and Lamar County may celebrate their rich heritage even as  
24 they work together for a bright and productive future; now,  
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
27 hereby recognize March 28, 2007, as Paris/Lamar County Day at the

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1 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for  
2 an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.