

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 161

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of West Texas are gathering in
2 Austin to celebrate West Texas Day at the State Capitol on March 27,
3 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, With its epic history--a chronicle of Native
5 Americans contesting for the land with frontier soldiers and
6 settlers, of cow towns and cattle drives supplanting immense herds
7 of buffalo, of oilmen and roughnecks developing the vast petroleum
8 and gas fields of the Permian Basin--this famous region encompasses
9 much of what people most readily associate with the Lone Star State;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The scenic wonders of West Texas include, in the
12 northern reaches, the primordial grasslands of the Llano Estacado,
13 the imposing Caprock escarpment, and the spectacular Palo Duro
14 Canyon, while to the south lie striking landscapes of mountains,
15 deserts, and the steeply cut canyons of the Rio Grande; and

16 WHEREAS, Citizens of West Texas cherish the land and the rich
17 heritage that have shaped them and take pride in the communities and
18 institutions they have established; among their most important
19 creations are many fine institutions of higher learning, including
20 Abilene Christian University and McMurry University in Abilene,
21 West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas Tech University, the
22 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Lubbock Christian
23 University in Lubbock, Midland College in Midland, The University
24 of Texas of the Permian Basin and Odessa College in Odessa, and

1 Angelo State University in San Angelo; and

2 WHEREAS, Serving the people of West Texas are a number of
3 modern urban centers; Abilene, established in the 1880s on the line
4 of the Texas and Pacific Railway, has grown from a celebrated cattle
5 town into a thriving city of 115,000; a center for ranching and the
6 petroleum industry, it is also the site of Dyess Air Force Base,
7 home to the B-1 bomber and its crews and a staging area for troops
8 fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; in 2002, the city gained a
9 dramatic addition to its downtown area with the opening of Frontier
10 Texas! a six-acre, state-of-the-art tourist complex that also
11 serves as the starting point for the Texas Forts Trail, a 650-mile
12 heritage tour through 29 counties; and

13 WHEREAS, Located in the heart of the Panhandle and at the
14 center of the largest natural gas field in the world, Amarillo has
15 built its prosperity on gas, petroleum, agriculture, and cattle; in
16 addition, the city has several major defense plants, including BWTX
17 Pantex and Bell Helicopter Textron; residents enjoy such cultural
18 amenities as opera, ballet, symphonic music, theater at the Globe
19 News Center for the Performing Arts, and the Panhandle-Plains
20 Historical Museum, while the nearby Cadillac Ranch ranks as one of
21 the nation's truly unique tourist attractions; and

22 WHEREAS, Lubbock, a center for agribusiness, distribution,
23 and manufacturing, is also widely known for its outstanding medical
24 facilities, for its comprehensive National Ranching Heritage
25 Center, and for a renowned archeological site, the Lubbock Lake
26 Landmark; the birthplace, moreover, of rock and roll legend Buddy
27 Holly, Lubbock has played an influential role in the growth of Texas

1 music, nurturing such artists as Waylon Jennings, Joe Ely, Jimmie
2 Dale Gilmore, and Butch Hancock; and

3 WHEREAS, Long identified with the oil business, Midland
4 continues to be an administrative and financial center for that
5 industry; its cultural attractions include the Petroleum Museum,
6 the Museum of the Southwest, and the American Airpower Heritage
7 Museum, a world-famous collection of vintage World War II aircraft
8 that was initially developed by the Commemorative Air Force; and

9 WHEREAS, Odessa claims the distinction of being home to the
10 largest inland petrochemical complex in the world; another facet of
11 the community's identity is reflected in the venerable Sandhills
12 Stock Show and Rodeo, the first rodeo of the season for the nearly
13 one thousand men and women competing on the tour of the Professional
14 Rodeo Cowboys Association; the city also boasts a replica of
15 Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Ellen Noel Art Museum, the Parker
16 House Ranching Museum, and the Presidential Museum, the only museum
17 in the United States solely dedicated to the office of the
18 presidency; and

19 WHEREAS, San Angelo's colorful frontier history lives on at
20 Fort Concho, one of the best preserved forts in the country and now
21 a national historic landmark; at one time the largest range cattle
22 shipping station in the U.S., San Angelo continues to be a national
23 leader in the processing and shipping of wool and mohair, while it
24 also benefits from a highly diversified industrial sector;
25 Goodfellow Air Force Base, established at San Angelo in 1940,
26 further contributes to the city's economy, as well as to the
27 nation's defense; and

1 WHEREAS, With its striking vistas, abundant natural
2 resources, and energetic, hardworking people, West Texas is engaged
3 in building a future that promises to be as dynamic and exciting as
4 its storied past; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby recognize March 27, 2007, as West Texas Day at the State
7 Capitol and extend sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and
8 memorable visit to all those who have traveled here for this special
9 occasion.