

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 165

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Longview and Gregg County are  
2 gathering in Austin to celebrate Longview/Gregg County Days at the  
3 State Capitol on March 27 and 28, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Present in the chamber on this occasion are the  
5 following dignitaries from Gregg County: Longview City Councilman  
6 Sidney Allen, Paul Anderson, Lisa Benson, Longview City Councilman  
7 John Bolster, Tony Cain, Suzanne Cook, Longview Mayor Jay Dean, Joe  
8 Derouen, Chuck Ewings, Charles Farmer, Jo Lee Ferguson, Judy  
9 Freeman, Candice Gast, Kelly Hall, Laura Hill, Dr. Bill Holda,  
10 Keith Honey, Shirley Hook, Dietrich Johnson, Joel Johnson, Wilton  
11 Johnson, Gene Keenon, Richard Lazarus, Lester Lucy, Richard Manley,  
12 Jack Miller, Scott Owens, Debbie Sadler, Bill Simms, Jay Stokes,  
13 County Judge Bill Stoudt, Dennis Suiter, Gladewater Mayor John Paul  
14 Tallent, Elton Taylor, Linda Thomas, John Ussery, Lindsay  
15 Vanderbilt, White Oak Mayor Tim Vaughn, Cheryl Way, Lon Welton, and  
16 Jackie Wood; and

17 WHEREAS, Once part of the hunting grounds of the Caddo tribe,  
18 this region became Gregg County on April 12, 1873, and was named  
19 after Confederate General John B. Gregg; Longview was designated as  
20 the county seat; and

21 WHEREAS, While the county's economy was originally founded on  
22 cotton and corn, the discovery of oil transformed Longview and  
23 Gregg County, with more than 3 billion barrels produced since 1931;  
24 the Big Inch pipeline, running from Longview to New York City,

1 helped win World War II by providing an uninterrupted supply of gas  
2 and oil to U.S. armed forces; while the county remains an important  
3 center for the petroleum industry, its diverse economy is also  
4 founded on such key industries as the Texas Eastman Company,  
5 LeTourneau, Inc., SITEL, and Trinity Industries; and

6 WHEREAS, Ideally situated in the Piney Woods of East Texas,  
7 just north of the Sabine River, county seat Longview is home to  
8 LeTourneau University, and the city's many cultural and historical  
9 attractions include the Longview Museum of Fine Arts, the Gregg  
10 County Historical Museum, and the R. G. LeTourneau Museum; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1978, the Great Texas Balloon Race, which  
12 attracts the best competitive balloon pilots in the world, has  
13 taken place in Longview; other festivals in the county include the  
14 annual Texas Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore, Roughneck Day  
15 Festival every April in White Oak, and East Texas Gusher Days in  
16 Gladewater; and

17 WHEREAS, Blessed with scenic vistas, a rich heritage, and an  
18 even brighter future, Gregg County is an outstanding region of the  
19 Lone Star State and a fine place to live, work, and raise a family;  
20 it is most fitting to pay tribute to the county and its citizens on  
21 this occasion; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
23 hereby recognize March 27 and 28 as Longview/Gregg County Days at  
24 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes  
25 for an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.