

By: Hopson

H.R. No. 163

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on February 20, 2007, to celebrate the history,
3 culture, and beauty of their Piney Woods home; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas on the border of
5 Louisiana, Panola County covers more than 800 square miles of
6 forests and rolling plains and is traversed from northwest to
7 southeast by the Sabine River; once inhabited by two confederations
8 of Native Americans, the Caddos and the Hasinai, the area
9 experienced a land rush in the 1830s as settlers descended there
10 from the Southern United States; on March 30, 1846, the Texas
11 Legislature officially created Panola County, and two years later,
12 voters chose Carthage as their county seat; and

13 WHEREAS, Farming and livestock drove the economy for many
14 decades until the Great Depression caused nearly a third of the
15 operations to close; after World War II, a booming oil and natural
16 gas industry sustained the county while improvements to pastures
17 and farms led to increased ranching and poultry farming; today,
18 Panola County remains a strong source of agricultural products,
19 including broilers, beef cattle, and hay, and it is one of the top
20 producers of natural gas in the state; in addition, some
21 quarter-million cubic feet of pinewood and hardwood are harvested
22 each year; and

23 WHEREAS, Home to nearly 50 Texas Historical Commission
24 markers, Panola County was the birthplace of several notable

1 Texans, including Margie Elizabeth Neal, the first woman elected to
2 serve in the Texas Senate, and country music stars Tex Ritter and
3 Jim Reeves; the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, located in
4 Carthage, honors the legacies of both these men, along with other
5 country music legends from the state, and the town also boasts the
6 Tex Ritter Museum and the Jim Reeves Memorial; and

7 WHEREAS, Opportunities for recreation can be found at Lake
8 Murvaul, a popular spot for freshwater fishing, and at Martin Creek
9 Lake State Park, which offers a variety of camping options; annual
10 celebrations, including the East Texas Oil and Gas Blast and the
11 Piney Woods Quilt Festival, draw people to Carthage from throughout
12 the region; and

13 WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County have long contributed
14 to the prosperity and distinction of the Lone Star State, and they
15 are truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 20, 2007, as Panola County
18 Day at the Capitol and extend a hearty welcome to the delegation
19 here today.