

By: Isett

H.R. No. 530

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Many notable citizens of Amarillo and Lubbock and  
2 their outstanding and supportive neighbors from other communities  
3 located in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains are visiting Austin  
4 on February 27, 2007, to pay tribute to their region's rich heritage  
5 and to celebrate Panhandle and South Plains Day at the State  
6 Capitol; and

7           WHEREAS, A thriving region of the state, the Panhandle and  
8 South Plains are home to one of the oldest inhabited places in  
9 Texas, the Lubbock Lake Site, a national historic and state  
10 archeological landmark where evidence of some 12,000 years of  
11 continuous habitation has been discovered; and

12           WHEREAS, Stretching through the northern part of the region  
13 is Palo Duro Canyon, the second largest canyon in the country, which  
14 boasts spectacular views and reveals, through its exposed strata, a  
15 geologic record spanning 250 million years; and

16           WHEREAS, Rich in history, this remarkable region of vast  
17 scenic plains is known for its traditional ranch lands, crop and  
18 meat production, large stretches of oil and gas reserves, major  
19 industry, and nationally recognized employees with a work ethic  
20 that is beyond reproach; and

21           WHEREAS, Amarillo, the northern principal city of the  
22 Panhandle and South Plains, is a dynamic urban center with a  
23 population of more than 180,000 and affords its residents and  
24 visitors a wide array of cultural amenities; contributing to

1 Amarillo's economic vitality are a Bell Helicopter tilt-rotor  
2 assembly center, where the V-22 Osprey and the US101 presidential  
3 helicopters are assembled, as well as the only assembly/disassembly  
4 plant for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal, a facility operated  
5 by BWXT Pantex for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear  
6 Security Administration; and

7 WHEREAS, Lubbock is the southern principal city of the  
8 Panhandle and South Plains; today, with a population of  
9 approximately 210,000, the community is home to the largest medical  
10 infrastructure between Dallas and Los Angeles and enjoys a  
11 diversified economy that draws its strength from agribusiness,  
12 manufacturing, and commerce; with the growth of cotton culture on  
13 the High Plains, Lubbock has become one of the world's primary  
14 centers for the processing of cottonseed; the city's economy is  
15 further bolstered by numerous small businesses that were the first  
16 in the state to band together to make insurance more affordable for  
17 employers, resulting in almost 7,000 covered employees, 1,500 of  
18 which were previously without major medical coverage; and

19 WHEREAS, The Panhandle and South Plains are also home to  
20 excellent educational institutions whose successes ensure that the  
21 area will continue to prosper; the Texas Tech University System,  
22 including its medical, law, and pharmacy schools, and West Texas  
23 A&M University are among the premier institutions in Texas and  
24 boast ever-increasing enrollments, nationally recognized programs  
25 and faculty, and outstanding graduates; Amarillo College and South  
26 Plains College, which continue to be among the finest community  
27 colleges in the country, and Lubbock Christian University, Wayland

1 Baptist University, Frank Phillips College, Western Texas College,  
2 and Clarendon College, are other outstanding educational  
3 institutions in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains; and

4 WHEREAS, Area attractions include the Panhandle-Plains  
5 Historical Museum, the largest history museum in the state, located  
6 on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, and Texas Tech  
7 University is home to many restored structures at the National  
8 Ranching Heritage Center, a 15-acre site tracing the evolution of  
9 ranch architecture and the history of the cattle industry in Texas;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The citizens of the Panhandle and South Plains  
12 regions are renowned for their friendliness and warmth; they have  
13 helped to build vital urban centers that serve not only a large part  
14 of Texas but also of eastern New Mexico, and it is indeed  
15 appropriate to take this opportunity to pay tribute to them; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2007, as Panhandle and  
19 South Plains Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation  
20 in attendance today, and to all their fellow citizens, sincere  
21 appreciation for the bright luster they add to the Lone Star State.