

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 536

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Ellis County are gathering at the  
2 State Capitol on February 27, 2007, to celebrate Ellis County Day;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, First inhabited by the Tonkawa tribe, the region was  
5 settled by Europeans in the mid-19th century; Ellis County was  
6 officially incorporated on December 20, 1849, and named for Richard  
7 Ellis, who was president of the Convention of 1836 that led to the  
8 independence of Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Many Czechs, Hungarians, and Germans settled in the  
10 county in the 1850s and raised cattle on the rolling Blackland  
11 Prairie; with the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad  
12 in 1872, growing cotton came to dominate the economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Today the county's diversified economy is based on  
14 agribusiness and industry; cotton and ranching continue to be  
15 important, along with the raising of wheat, sorghum, and turf  
16 grass; the county is also important in the manufacture of cement and  
17 steel and has become a major warehousing and distribution hub; and

18 WHEREAS, County seat Waxahachie is widely known as the  
19 Gingerbread City, for its lovely Victorian homes and its  
20 picturesque county courthouse; many films have been shot in the  
21 city, including the Academy Award-winning *Places in the Heart*,  
22 which was written and directed by Waxahachie native Robert Benton;  
23 half a million visitors each year are drawn by such events as the  
24 Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival and the Crape Myrtle

1 Festival; and

2 WHEREAS, Waxahachie's thriving business community includes  
3 the Walgreen's distribution center, the Rock-Tenn Company,  
4 Saint-Gobain Containers, the Owens-Corning fiberglass insulation  
5 plant, Victron Energy, International Extrusion, Georgia Pacific,  
6 the U.S. Aluminum Corporation, Burleson Honey, and Dartco of Texas;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ennis, known as the Bluebonnet City, is home to the  
9 Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum; every Memorial Day weekend,  
10 the city hosts the National Polka Festival, a celebration of the  
11 city's Czech heritage; the Texas Motorplex, the renowned  
12 drag-racing facility, hosts 75 events annually, drawing half a  
13 million people; and

14 WHEREAS, The city's progressive economy has drawn such  
15 industries as Sterilite Corporation, Elk Corporation of Texas,  
16 Leggett & Platt Corporation, Ennis Extruded Products, Texas Ennis  
17 Business Forms, Schirm USA, Inc., Suez Energy Resources, JTEKT,  
18 Sherwin-Williams, and the CVS Pharmacy distribution center, as well  
19 as the soon-to-open ADS and the National Envelope Corporation; and

20 WHEREAS, Once known as the Cement Capital of Texas,  
21 Midlothian is now also home to such industries as Chapparral Steel,  
22 TXI, the MidTexas International Center, Holcim-Texas, Ash Grove  
23 Texas, Toys-R-Us, and the Target distribution center, as well as a  
24 new satellite campus for Navarro College; it has become a popular  
25 location for families, with its excellent school system and safe,  
26 small-town ambiance; and

27 WHEREAS, Red Oak, the "Gateway to Ellis County," balances the

1 charm and comfort of small-town life with convenient access to the  
2 Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, and its flourishing economy,  
3 sustained residential growth, low crime rate, and award-winning  
4 school district make it a wonderful place to raise a family; and

5 WHEREAS, Dynamic and picturesque Ellis County is one of the  
6 great assets of the Lone Star State; its hardworking and innovative  
7 residents cherish their history and heritage even as they look  
8 forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead; now, therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2007, as Ellis County Day  
12 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
13 wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.