

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 645

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On May 5, 2007, current and former residents of the  
2 Doans community in Wilbarger County are gathering for the 124th  
3 annual Doans May Day Picnic in Vernon; and

4           WHEREAS, Considered the oldest ongoing historical  
5 celebration in Texas, the event traces its history back to a simple  
6 picnic on May 1, 1884, which was enjoyed by a half-dozen people in a  
7 grove of trees near the Red River; and

8           WHEREAS, Starting a tradition that continues today, a queen  
9 was crowned at the 1911 festivities, which included carnivals,  
10 rodeos, airplane rides, barbecues, storytelling by early settlers,  
11 and political speeches; stores closed so that employees could  
12 attend, and later it became a two-day affair with Sunday morning  
13 services; more than a century later, the highlight of this event  
14 remains the coronation of a king and queen, and selected for this  
15 honor in 2007 are King Dillon Lynn, from the House of Koch, and  
16 Queen Lindsey Kaye, from the House of Lockett; and

17           WHEREAS, The first settlers in Wilbarger County were members  
18 of the Doan family who arrived in 1878 and established a trading  
19 post known as Doan's Store at a Red River crossing on the Chisholm  
20 Trail; the original adobe building, owned by Corwin Doan, was  
21 renovated by the Wilbarger Historical Commission and is the oldest  
22 structure in the county; and

23           WHEREAS, Nicknamed "the jumping off place" by trail drivers,  
24 Doan's Crossing thrived as the last chance to buy supplies before

1 travelers entered Indian territory; the modest settlement grew to  
2 include supply stores, a post office, a two-story hotel, a saloon, a  
3 drug store, a wagon yard, a blacksmith, a restaurant, a school, a  
4 chapel, and several homes; and

5 WHEREAS, Jonathan and Corwin Doan and their families were  
6 Quakers who enhanced community relations by befriending local  
7 Indians, learning their language, and establishing lifelong  
8 friendships; Corwin Doan was appointed Indian agent and hosted  
9 visits by Quanah Parker and other famous chiefs and their tribes;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Indians would trade only with the Doan family,  
12 who also counted among their regular customers the trail drivers  
13 that herded six million cattle past the trading post during the last  
14 two decades of the century; in 1931, a granite monument was placed  
15 near Doan's Store in honor of those courageous trail drivers; and

16 WHEREAS, The people of Doans take justifiable pride in their  
17 community and the immeasurable contributions its citizens have made  
18 to the rich history and culture of the Lone Star State, and it is  
19 indeed fitting that they be acknowledged at this time; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby commemorate the 124th Doans May Day Picnic and  
23 extend to all celebrants best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable  
24 event.