

By: Keffer

H.R. No. 1436

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens are taking time this year to  
2 celebrate the sesquicentennial of the establishment of Palo Pinto  
3 County; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally home to the Lipan Apache people, this  
5 rugged, hilly country along the Brazos River was first surveyed by  
6 William A. A. "Bigfoot" Wallace in 1837; the original settlers  
7 included the cattlemen Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight, who  
8 founded their ranches in the 1850s; and

9 WHEREAS, Palo Pinto County was formed by the state  
10 legislature in 1856 from parts of Bosque and Navarro Counties and  
11 formally established in 1857; the name of the county is Spanish for  
12 "painted posts" or "painted trees," which may have come from the  
13 Native American practice of painting trees blue and red along Palo  
14 Pinto Creek near Strawn; the county seat Golconda was renamed Palo  
15 Pinto in 1858; and

16 WHEREAS, By 1880 cotton had become an important crop in the  
17 county, and the Texas and Pacific Railway linked the region with  
18 national markets and brought in new settlers; the discovery of oil  
19 in the 1910s made petroleum drilling a major part of the county's  
20 economy; and

21 WHEREAS, The largest town in the county, Mineral Wells was  
22 founded by James Lynch, who, in 1880, discovered that his  
23 odd-tasting well water might have healing properties; the spa that  
24 grew up around the town's "Crazy Water" boasted 150,000 visitors a

1 year during the early 20th century; over the years the 452 rooms of  
2 the massive Baker Hotel hosted such celebrities as Lawrence Welk,  
3 Judy Garland, Clark Gable, the Three Stooges, Roy Rogers and Dale  
4 Evans, and even, under an alias, the bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Near Mineral Wells, Camp Wolters served as  
7 headquarters for the cavalry of the Texas National Guard, a U.S.  
8 Army Infantry Replacement Center and German POW camp during World  
9 War II, a U.S. Air Force Base in the 1950s, and the home of Primary  
10 Helicopter Training for the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War; in  
11 1973 the base was deactivated and rechristened as Wolters  
12 Industrial Park; and

13 WHEREAS, With an economy firmly founded today upon ranching,  
14 oil, agriculture, and manufacturing, Palo Pinto County delights  
15 residents and visitors alike with such attractions as the Palo  
16 Pinto County Jail Museum, the Strawn Museum, and the Little Rock  
17 Schoolhouse Museum; and

18 WHEREAS, The 18,000 acres of Possum Kingdom Lake and the  
19 surrounding cliffs and hillsides offer recreational opportunities,  
20 and the county's annual festivals include the Possum Kingdom  
21 Chamber of Commerce Mardi Gras Parade in March and the Crazy Water  
22 Festival in Mineral Wells every October; and

23 WHEREAS, With its rich traditions, scenic landscape, and  
24 industrious residents, Palo Pinto County is a unique and dynamic  
25 region of the Lone Star State, and it is fitting that the county's  
26 150 years of colorful history and achievement be recognized and  
27 celebrated; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
2   Legislature hereby commemorate the sesquicentennial of the  
3   establishment of Palo Pinto County and extend best wishes to its  
4   residents for a happy and prosperous future.