

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 1933

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, In 2007, proud residents of Parmer County are  
2 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organization of their  
3 county; and

4           WHEREAS, Situated along the border of New Mexico on the High  
5 Plains of the Panhandle, this windswept region was first occupied  
6 by the Apache; they were driven out around 1700 by the Kiowa and the  
7 Comanche, who dominated the High Plains until the 1870s; and

8           WHEREAS, Parmer County was established from the Bexar  
9 District in 1876 and named after Martin Parmer, a veteran of the  
10 Texas Revolution; the Capitol Syndicate of Chicago accepted three  
11 million acres of land in the Panhandle in 1882 in exchange for  
12 building a new State Capitol in Austin, and for the next 20 years,  
13 the only inhabitants of the county were the cowboys of the  
14 syndicate's massive XIT ranch; by 1900, the U.S. Census counted  
15 13,675 head of cattle and 34 people; and

16           WHEREAS, With the arrival of the Pecos and Northern Texas  
17 Railway, communities began to grow along the track of the railroad;  
18 in 1904, the Capitol Syndicate began to sell sites to small ranchers  
19 and farmers, and by 1910, 161 farms and ranches had grown up in the  
20 county; in May 1907, Parmer County was organized, with Farwell as  
21 the county seat; and

22           WHEREAS, With the vast Ogallala aquifer as an irrigation  
23 source, Parmer County has become in the 21st century one of the  
24 leading agricultural counties in Texas, with beef cattle, sorghum,

1 corn, wheat, and cotton as the chief products; in recent years the  
2 market value of Parmer County's cattle and crops has exceeded half a  
3 billion dollars a year; and

4 WHEREAS, Today county seat Farwell serves the agricultural  
5 economy with an irrigation pipe plant, feedlot operations, and  
6 grain elevators; every July the town celebrates Border Town Days  
7 with its neighbor, Texico, just across the New Mexico state line;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The largest town in the county, Friona is likewise a  
10 center for agribusiness, with such major employers as Cargill Meat  
11 Solutions, Friona Industries, and Hi-Pro Feeds providing  
12 processing and support services to the ranching industry; residents  
13 and visitors alike enjoy the city's annual festivals, including  
14 Maize Days every September and the Annual Cheeseburger Cook-Off and  
15 Festival in July; and

16 WHEREAS, With its colorful past and the prospect of a  
17 prosperous future, Parmer County has much to celebrate on its 100th  
18 anniversary, and it is fitting to pay tribute to this significant  
19 region of the Lone Star State on this notable occasion; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby congratulate Parmer County on the 100th  
23 anniversary of its founding and extend to the county's citizens  
24 best wishes for an enjoyable birthday celebration and for another  
25 100 years of prosperity.