

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 135

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Gregg County Days are taking place at the State  
2 Capitol on March 31 and April 1, 2009, and this occasion provides a  
3 welcome opportunity to pay tribute to this notable Texas county;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Present in the chamber on this occasion are the  
6 following Gregg County dignitaries: county judge Bill Stoudt,  
7 Longview mayor Jay Dean, Longview city manager David Willard,  
8 Longview Partnership president Kelly Hall, Gladewater mayor Walter  
9 Derrick, former Gladewater mayor Jackie Wood, Gladewater city  
10 councilman John Ussery, Gladewater city manager Jay Stokes,  
11 Gladewater Economic Development Corporation executive director Lon  
12 Welton, former White Oak mayor Tim Vaughn, Kilgore Economic  
13 Development Corporation executive director Amanda Nobles, Suzanne  
14 Cook, Laura McKethan, Alfred Lacy, Steven Best, Bennie Corutt,  
15 Patty Bell, Keith Honey, Jim Kendrick, Darwin Winfield, Mike  
16 Northcutt, Tony Cain, Gene Keenon, Melissa Harris, Laura Hill,  
17 Sidney Allen, Shirley Hook, Sandra Holm, Jeremy DuMond, Ingrid  
18 Johnson, Paul Anderson, Amy Tatum, Jack Miller, Vickie Echols,  
19 Courtney Gill, Laura McCarter, Cathy Cace, Richard Lazurus, and  
20 Richard Manley; and

21           WHEREAS, The lands that today make up Gregg County were once  
22 inhabited by various Native American groups, including the Caddo  
23 and the Cherokee; originally part of Upshur County, this area of the  
24 Lone Star State was established as Gregg County on April 12, 1873,

1 and named for Confederate General John B. Gregg; the local  
2 population grew quickly in the following decades, and by 1920,  
3 nearly 17,000 people were living in the county; and

4       WHEREAS, For more than a half-century after the county was  
5 established, its economy continued to be based on farming, but when  
6 oil was struck in the western part of the county in the early 1930s,  
7 people flooded into the area, and the communities of Kilgore and  
8 Gladewater became boom towns in the span of a few days; the energy  
9 reserves of the East Texas Oil Field helped power the American war  
10 effort in World War II, and petroleum resources have continued to  
11 play a key role in the county's fortunes; in addition, a diverse  
12 range of other commercial endeavors have been established,  
13 including manufacturing, tourism, and lignite mining, and major  
14 companies such as Eastman, LeTourneau Technologies, SITEL, and  
15 Trinity Industries employ numerous residents; and

16       WHEREAS, Longview, the county seat, is Gregg County's largest  
17 city; it is home to LeTourneau University and boasts numerous  
18 cultural attractions, including the Longview Museum of Fine Arts,  
19 the Gregg County Historical Museum, and the R. G. LeTourneau  
20 Museum; and

21       WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy the county's  
22 numerous special events; they include the Great Texas Balloon Race  
23 in Longview, the annual Texas Shakespeare Festival in Kilgore, the  
24 Roughneck Day Festival in White Oak, and East Texas Gusher Days in  
25 Gladewater; and

26       WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Gregg County has been  
27 blessed with abundant resources and innovative and industrious

1 citizens, and it has made significant contributions to the ongoing  
2 prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
4 hereby designate March 31 and April 1, 2009, as Gregg County Days at  
5 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes  
6 for an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.