

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 189

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Lamar County are gathering at the State
2 Capitol on April 23, 2009, to celebrate Lamar County Day, and this
3 occasion provides a welcome opportunity to honor this notable part
4 of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Lamar County was established by act of the Fifth
6 Congress of the Republic of Texas on December 17, 1840, and named
7 for Mirabeau B. Lamar, the fourth president of the republic; the
8 towns of Lafayette and Mount Vernon each served as county seat
9 before early settler George Wright negotiated with county
10 commissioners to have the settlement of Pinhook made the center of
11 government operations; the community was subsequently named Paris
12 after Paris, France, and the first term of the county court was held
13 there in 1844; other notable area residents in the mid-1800s
14 included Samuel Bell Maxey, a Confederate general and United States
15 senator, and John Chisum, one of the foremost cattle barons in the
16 southwestern United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Bordered on the north by the Red River and on the
18 south by the North Sulphur River, Lamar County was once a major
19 farming region; although its economy became less dependent on
20 agriculture after the Great Depression, many residents continue to
21 earn a living through the production of hay, wheat, and soybeans and
22 the raising of beef and dairy cattle; moreover, a range of prominent
23 businesses are located in Paris, including Campbell's Soup Company,
24 Sara Lee Bakery Group, Flex-O-Lite, Kimberly-Clark Corporation,

1 Philips Lighting, and Merico; the town is also home to Paris Junior
2 College, which has been providing educational opportunities to the
3 region since 1924; and

4 WHEREAS, Historical and cultural attractions abound in
5 Paris, which is the Official Crape Myrtle City of the State of
6 Texas; among the many things to see and do are the Hayden Museum of
7 American Art, which houses a permanent collection of graphic art,
8 archival photography, and American chairs, the Sam Bell Maxey House
9 State Historic Site, and the Paris Union Station Railroad Depot;
10 well-known city landmarks include the Culbertson Fountain, on the
11 plaza in the downtown historic district, and the city's replica of
12 the Eiffel Tower, which stands 65 feet tall and is topped with a red
13 cowboy hat; and

14 WHEREAS, This dynamic county is one of the Lone Star State's
15 great treasures, and it is a pleasure to honor the residents of
16 Lamar County as they look forward to a bright and promising future;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby designate April 23, 2009, as Lamar County Day at the State
20 Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for an
21 enjoyable stay in Austin.